4th Edition

THE

PALL MALL

GAZETTE

No. 9031.—Vol. LVIII. SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 3, 1894. Price One Penny.

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MATINEE TO-DAY (SATURDAY), WEDNESDAY, March 7, and EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30.—ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

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EVERY EVENING, at 8, revival of the great Drury Lane Drama,
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By Paul Meritt, Henry Pettit, and Sir Augustus Harris,
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W. S. PENLEY as CHARLEY'S AUNT.
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THIS EVENING, at 8.45, MRS. DEXTER. Messrs. Charles Hawtrey, Lionel Wallace, Wilfred Draycott, Gordon Harvey, W. F. Hawtrey, Ernest Cossum, S. La-celles, Alec Mackenzie; Misses Fanny Brough, Helen Conway, Eva Williams, Alice Mansfield, Ina Aeoldsmith. Preceded, at 8, by FOR CHARITY'S SAKE. FIRST MATINEE of MRS. DEXTER, TO-DAY. Preceded by FOR CHARITY'S SAKE, at 2.30.

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Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Comyns Carr.
TO-DAY, at 2.30, and TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, a New and Original Comedy, by Robert Buchanan, and
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Messrs. H. B. Irving, Brandon Thomas, Cyril Maude, Lewis Waller, Sydney Brough, Edmund Maurice, Will Dennis, F. M. Page, &c.; Mesdames Vane, Pattie Browne, Lena Ashwell, Radclyffe, Juliette Nesville, Cudlip, Shelbourne, Young, Phelps, M. Hobson, Massey, Robinson, Gore, and Phyllis Broughton. At 8.45, ADOPTION. Box-office open from 10 till 6.

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THIS EVENING at 8.40, THE LITTLE WIDOW. Messrs. Charles Sugden, Welton Dale, A. E. W. Mason, Frank Lacy, E. H. Paterson; Misses Minnie Palmer, Emilie Grattan, Sidney A. Phelps, Jane Grey. At 8, IN OLDEN DAYS. Messrs. Harry Grattan, A. E. W. Mason, Miss Emilie Grattan. MATINEE TO-DAY, at 2.30.

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ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.
Open at 7.45. At 9, the New Grand Dramatic Ballet, DON QUIXOTE. Varieties (at 9), T. E. DUNVILLE; Rose Dearing; Beattie and Bentley; Clinton Elder; James Taylor; Katie Lawrence. The Fechtani Family; Robert Gardiboy; Mdlle. DELLA ROCCA. At 10.45, CHICAGO, &c.

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TO-NIGHT, Two Grand Ballets, KATRINA, at 7.50, and the Up-to-Date Ballet, THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME, at 10.20, by Mr. George Edwardes, arranged by Mdme. Katti Lanner, music by Monsieur Leopold Wenzel. Mdlle. Heva Darcy, Signor Vincenti, and Mdlle. Szalatzki. Grand Varieties. The Three Judges, Monrose Troupe, Mdlle. Naya, &c. Doors open 7.30. TO NIGHT, at 9.30, an entirely new series of LIVING PICTURES. Another Empire success.

THE ROYAL AQUARIUM.
The Sensation of Paris—Mdlle. Bob Walter and Ferocious Lions, at 4 and 9.
At no place in the world can so many sights be seen. Miss Luker in the Divers, Adelina Ontario, the charmingly graceful and accomplished Gymnast. An OSTRICH FARM. The Florenz Court Acrobats. Fuller and Rose, Champion Divers. A Dive through the Roof. One Hour's Conjuring, 12.0 noon, free. GRAND VARIETIES, 2.30 (Concert, 5.30 and 7.30. Danseuses, Jugglers, Serio-Comics, Jumping, Acrobat, Gymnast, Pantomimist, The Boxing Kangaroo, &c., all free. Skating Free. SWIMMING ENTERTAINMENTS. Walking on the Water, &c. Fealt to Rae, 3 and 8. The Fisheries opens Tuesday.

HOME RULE TO LET.

Mr. Gladstone's resignation has caused such general excitement that one of the most important aspects of the crisis to which it has led has been overlooked, or at least underestimated. What is to become of Home Rule? It is a very important matter for what was yesterday the Separatist party, but is to-day Heaven only knows what. It is a difficult question to answer, but it is one of life or death to the motley gathering which will be ranged more or less reluctantly under the banner of Lord Rosebery. Without the active support of the Nationalist members, the Government will find itself in a minority in any important division that may take place, even if Mr. Labouchere and his Radical rump fall sullenly into line. How, then, does the matter stand? In the Cabinet, as it was constituted till to-day, there were two Ministers, not only pledged to Home Rule, but convinced of its desirability and its necessity. The rest were pledged to it, but hardly any one would say they were convinced. These two were Mr. Gladstone and Mr. John Morley. The former to-day tenders his resignation; the latter, it is said, we know not with what truth, desires to be relieved of the cares and anxieties of the Irish Secretaryship. Mr. Morley, no doubt, is as staunch a Home Ruler as ever he was, though recent experience may have opened his eyes a great deal; but Mr. Morley at the India Office, if that is where he is going, is not the Mr. Morley of the Irish Office. It is notorious that Lord Rosebery and Sir William Harcourt accepted rather than embraced the policy which Mr. Gladstone imposed upon the majority of the once united Liberal party. Neither of them has ever displayed anything more than the most perfunctory enthusiasm for the Bill. The Parnellite juice is still too strong for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to rid his nostrils of the stink; and the cynical indifference with which Lord Rosebery commended the defunct and almost forgotten measure to the House of Lords was bitterly commented on at the time, and is still remembered by the Irish Nationalists.

Is the Bill, then, to be shelved for good and all? It looks very like it. For the rumours which remove Mr. John Morley from the Irish Office designate Mr. Herbert Gladstone or Mr. Acland as his successor. Can any one with the slightest knowledge of affairs, or, we might add, with the faintest sense of humour, imagine either of these gentlemen piloting a complicated Home Rule Bill through the House of Commons? If these changes are made, Home Rule will be hung up during the life of the present Parliament, and during the lives of many Parliaments to come. We do not care to speculate upon the attitude of the Nationalists in such a contingency. The party which is nominally led by Mr. Justin McCarthy, but which is really controlled by Mr. Tim Healy, has shown such remarkable subserviency to the Ministerial Whips that there is no saying how far they will carry party servility. But the Parnellites at any rate are bound by the first law of nature to revolt. They are, no doubt, in the difficulty of having to withdraw their votes from one market without any chance of finding other customers for them. They may content themselves with abstention, but even this neutral attitude will place the precarious majority in constant jeopardy.

But that is not the only aspect of this side of the situation. For the greater part of the last two years it has been iterated and reiterated to us that the present Government came into office on the strength of their pledges to solve the Irish problem by granting autonomy to Ireland. If they are about deliberately to abandon all attempt to redeem this pledge, what becomes of their moral right to occupy the places they now fill? They cannot imagine that they had a mandate from the electors to wreck the Constitution, to plunder Churches, or to commit the thousand and one absurdities now recommended to them by their Radical advisers, while their own election addresses are still adorning the hoardings in town and country. The situation is an impossible one, as, indeed, it has been for months past. But they have brewed their juice, and, as Sir William Harcourt would say, they must stew in it. If from no other motive, at least from that of self-interest, the Unionists are bound to give the reconstructed Government as much rope as it may care to demand.

THE NEW RADICALISM.

A TALK WITH ADMIRAL FREDERICK A. MAXSE.

Among the Radicals of the old school none is more entitled to respect and esteem (writes our representative) than Admiral Maxse. As everybody knows, he has recently stirred Mr. Frederic Harrison, the Positivist, to a display of perfectly childish ill-temper. In any case the former naval aide-de-camp to Lord Raglan is a personality, and I was naturally pleased when he consented to gratify my request for a conversation on "The New Radicalism." I found him out in his cosy dwelling in the South-Western district. I must not say where—and the 1894 Directory is no guide—as Admiral Maxse told me that if I gave number and street he would receive some fifty or sixty letters on the day following the appearance of this article. He was sitting in a pleasant study on the ground floor to the left of the hall as one entered, and looked as little like the pictures of him suggested to the mind's eye by Mr. Harrison's vituperation as could well be imagined. He seemed to me, at least, a taking specimen of the well-preserved English gentleman, courteous, dignified, and intelligent.

"I think you hold, Admiral Maxse," said I, "that the New Radicals have nothing in common with any respectable English party of the past?"—"What I was going to say," replied the Admiral, "a point which has never been brought out sufficiently, is that it was quite the first time in English history that leading Radicals were the people who seceded as they did in 1886."

"And so gave the Extremists their chance?"—"Yes. Before to-day, you see, it has always been the Whigs and the Moderates who have deserted, because they were alarmed. Radicals had never seceded."

An Attack on the Integrity of the Country.

"But in this case," said I, "we have an attack on the State."—"No," replied Admiral Maxse, "we have an attack on the integrity of the country."

"And that is a point on which intelligent and patriotic Englishmen have hitherto never been in disaccord."—"Never!"

"But does it not seem to you that underlying much of the—well—obscurantism of the New Radicals there is a sentiment of hostility to the Empire of England as such?"—"Yes. The Little Englanders have got the steam up for this question. A proof of this is that the Positivists, one of whose cardinal doctrines is that great nations should be broken up into small ones, are the most zealous advocates of Home Rule, and all the people who disparage the Empire are Gladstonians."

"And a nice lot they are," I said.—"What I want to bring out," went on Admiral Maxse, "and have been trying to bring out for some

COUNTRY NOTES.

March has come swaggering in with quite his usual bluster, and many country people would be glad if he brought a few sharp nipping frosts and snowstorms with him, for all kinds of vegetation are unsafely advanced. With fruit trees especially this is the case. The promise is most bountiful, thanks to the dry sunny character of last season, that ripened the wood without encouraging a too luxuriant growth. But should the blossoms be wooed from out the bud by winds of unseasonable mildness—and they already show what Rosalind would have called a "coming-on" disposition—there arrives a late frost, and the gardener's hopes for the year are wrecked and destroyed. For an apple tree is not like a wild bird. Except under very rare circumstances, it does not collect its forces, and when its first attempt at bearing fails, try another, but gives up the business for a twelvemonth. And the experts all say that there is likely to be great dearth or great plenty of fruit this year. The buds are already formed: the question is whether they will be allowed to mature.

Anyone rambling about field and woodland with a tolerable knowledge of English literature in his head is apt to think the majority of poets and natural history essayists slightly previous in their description of March. You might imagine from reading them that it is a month of wild flowers, of daisies and primroses, sweet violets and wild daffodils. It is nothing of the kind. *Bellis perennis* blows all the year in one sense—that is, you may drop across a solitary specimen any time; and so with the violets as blue as your eyes. The botanist may easily obtain a specimen, but if Amanda asks for a posy she must buy it from the flower-girl; let her in the meantime be content to follow the old rustic usage, and gather for eardrops the catkins of the hazel. Bluebells are thrusting up in myriads, and yet not even they will make a great show in the early year till April. Daffodils, crocuses, snowdrops (the last two are nearly done) blow, but with them the gardener has been under nurse to nature.

A matter-of-fact realistic observer of nature would write no very glowing account of the outside world just now. The woods look as black as ever against a sky seldom anything but wintry, and probably it is mere fancy that makes one think he can discern a tinge of brown that will brighten as the forming buds grow larger. Thickets still are as dry as tinder, though a new green is showing on the long jagged spears thrown up last year by the wild rose, and the early honeysuckle has been showing its first leaves for some time past. But the boisterous wind still makes the curious lamenting noise among the dry twigs and rustling leaves that gives way to a softer note as soon as the foliage begins to intercept its flood. The hedgerows so opulent last summer are bare, save that at their roots little sprouting plants are bursting through dead leaf and mould. An early glitter has indeed come on the grass, but the ploughlands, except where the winter wheat is, are bleak and bare.

The dog scare that arises regularly at this season is assuming unusually large proportions, especially in sheep countries, and farmers are rejoicing that a judge has been found to decide a case against the dog-owner on purely circumstantial evidence. Yet the shepherds are not themselves free from blame. It is the nature of a dog, whether he be of the purest lineage or the commonest cur, to delight in mutton, and during the lambing season there is always a good deal of it about, a certain proportion of ewes and a larger percentage of their offspring invariably coming to grief. Now, a careful man ought to bury the bodies or take them home and boil them for his dogs, but too often they are left rotting on the ground, a temptation to the whole canine race. Even a collie who has once tasted dead sheep becomes demoralized, and it is impossible to hinder him from gratifying his taste on every opportunity when he can do so without peril.

The nuisance might be greatly abated if the Inland Revenue officers would attend to their duties. Probably not more than half—if as many—of the dogs in the country are duly licensed, and if the 7*s.* 6*d.* were looked after the dog would go. Any one who is accustomed to take out a certain number of licences regularly is watched as if his one object in life were to cheat the Crown; but he who systematically ignores any duty in the matter is quite untroubled, and in nine cases out of ten he owns some valueless brute that is allowed to roam at its own sweet will. The only effectual remedy for this state of things is to put the matter into the hands of some body like the police, who have opportunities of noting where the dogs belong to.

time—for it does not seem to have been sufficiently noticed—is that the usual precedents quoted as to Liberal measures having ultimately succeeded, and as to their being likely to succeed on the Home Rule question, are absolutely void, because for the first time a party, the so-called Liberal party, has attacked the integrity of the country upon which all Radicals hitherto have based the principle of progress. Of what use is it to carry measures of reform in a country which is about to be broken up into four separate countries according to Mr. Frederic Harrison? This is no nightmare. It is the declared and settled determination of a party which has great influence with the present Government. Feather-headed Radicals talk about Home Rule in America, but in America they have not got Home Rule. What they have got is equal State Rights. One State does not transact the affairs of another State in the way Mr. Gladstone proposes the Irish should do in England."

NUMERICAL INSIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEW RADICALS.

"Actually," I ventured to observe here, "these people, despite the noise they make, represent a very small section of the English people."—"Yes, that is so," returned Admiral Maxse. "The Moderates affect not to believe in them, and yet follow them."

"But in all revolutionary periods," said I, "it is the 'tail' that moves the party."—"I may mention," went on the Admiral, "that a friend of mine used to amuse himself attending meetings on Home Rule, both of the Moderate and Extreme sections of the Gladstonian party, in order to oppose resolutions in favour of it. And when at the Moderate meeting he argued that a separate Parliament for Ireland would lead to a demand for independence, he used to be met at the meetings of the Moderates with cries of dissent. At the Irish Nationalist meetings loud cheers of approval always met this argument. And then there is the expression which cannot be too often reiterated—about Home Rule furnishing the armed plant of a revolution."

THE ORIGIN OF THE NEW RADICALISM.

"And now as to the New Radicalism. It is, of course, largely due to the fact that the withdrawal of the really strong men from the Liberal camp afforded the second-rate minds and fiery spirits their opportunity?"—"Yes, that is so. All the strongest Radicals were got rid of by Mr. Gladstone's proposals, he never having been a Radical himself. We were driven to associate with the Tories. I knew Joseph Chamberlain, for example, long before he came into the House of Commons. He was always a thorough Radical, and he would have preserved Radicalism from its present flightiness."

"And from the contempt," I put in, "in which it is getting to be held by most decent, honest, and respectable Englishmen."—"And just consider," resumed Admiral Maxse, "the eminent Radicals who have been driven away by Mr. Gladstone. When one thinks of them it is quite remarkable who they were. There were John Bright, Joseph Chamberlain, Peter Taylor, Peter Rylands, Jesse Collings, and, had he lived, John Stuart Mill, who pronounced himself so strongly on the Irish question, would have been with them."

"And Fawcett, too?"—"Oh certainly, Fawcett. I knew as a fact that Mr. Bradlaugh had, in the first instance, determined on accompanying Mr. Chamberlain in his severance from Mr. Gladstone."

"Then there was Spurgeon?"—"Well, he was only an occasional politician, so to speak."

"That is so."—"I want to say now," said the Admiral, "that Moderates will always stick to party, because they are not strong in principle. Party with them is the be-all and end-all of everything. Sir William Harcourt and his like will always follow the official chief. All the little men would go with Mr. Gladstone, which they did, you know; all the small fry and the courtiers."

"And, of course, they are much too weak-kneed and backboneless to stand up against the mad Extremists?"—"Yes. The guiding mind of Radicalism, that which would have saved it from falling and from the concoction of such a crude hotch-potch as the Newcastle Programme, was extinguished with Joseph Chamberlain's resignation, and genuine Radicalism and the cause of wise progress have been thrown back half a century. Still, a good deal of vitality has been imparted to Conservatism."

"Yes," said I. "The number of 'Reformed Radicals' inscribed on the canvassers' books since 1892 even is, I believe, enormous."

"The best men of their party," went on Admiral Maxse, "such as Asquith and Haldane, followed the Radical flag mechanically from having no experience of the older Radicalism, never having worked with Mill or Fawcett, or Bright or Chamberlain. Had they been more mature they would most assuredly have remained with the latter. It is piteous that such men, and also that John Burns, who, notwithstanding his wild, impenitent words regarding assassination, has within him the germs of fruitful Radicalism of the old sort, have been lost to the cause of Radical progress in the best sense of the word."

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH OUR ANARCHISTS?

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—When, some few years ago, garotting and robbery with violence from the person became inconveniently fashionable, the honest fellows who made a specialty of this pastime were prevailed upon to moderate their enthusiasm by the introduction of the "cat." There was, and still is, some difference of opinion among judges as to the extent of its application, but among the class operated upon there is absolute unanimity of opinion. Their dislike to this form of treatment is unfeigned, unassumed; and the result is that these good people have abandoned this once popular sport for other pursuits not necessarily involving a Nemesis in the way of an uncertain number of lashes.

We are now threatened with another visitation, not as yet endemic, but likely, unless opposed by vigorous measures, to become epidemic. Bomb-throwing offers many attractions. It is sensational, comparatively devoid of risk to the operator, and in the few cases in which accident or some more than usual lack of arrangement has led to the demise of the hapless experimentalist, he is more than repaid, in his own fanatical estimation, by a theatrical martyrdom and by the knowledge that his "comrades," if they can manage it, will talk frothy sedition over his grave. It seems to me that, like garotting, bomb-throwing might, with but little trouble or expense, be made unpopular among its votaries. There is nothing very martial in being whipped—as a form of martyrdom it is distressingly prosaic—and where one political outlaw may show with pardonable pride a split nose or a mutilated ear, many considerations will militate against the exhibition by his less fortunate comrade of scars, the very disposition of which precludes their being classed as honourable. For violent mob-oratory, which has lately taken the form of incitement to murder, I would flog; for successful bomb-throwing—that is, the use of explosives by which wounds or death are caused—I would flog and then hang. The press should be admitted to witness the floggings, full publicity being given to the details; but the executions should, as in murder cases, be in private.—I enclose my card, and am, Sir, your obedient servant,

O'C.

March 2.

COLONIAL NOTES.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—In your issue of this day you have fallen into an error in saying that the late George Milner Stephen was criminally prosecuted in connection with his land speculations in Australia. What happened was that he raised a criminal prosecution against my very old friend Mr. George Stevenson (the editor and part proprietor of the *South Australian Register*) for libel in connection with land speculation. The verdict was not in favour of Mr. G. M. Stephen, which meant that he had written an untruthful letter regarding the price at which he had sold some land. As a consequence he resigned all his public appointments and left the Colony. I was present during the whole of the trial, which was a very sensational one for the colony of South Australia, then a very small settlement.—I am, Sir, &c.,

BETA.

February 27.

To READERS ABSENT FROM TOWN AND COUNTRY RESIDENTS

Residents apparently absent from town and country residents may have the SPECIAL EDITION of the PALL MALL GAZETTE, containing the LATEST NEWS, sent to ANY ADDRESS within the UNITED KINGDOM, for delivery by the first post on the following morning, at the rate of NINEPENCE PER WEEK, or ONE SHILLING PER WEEK to ANY ADDRESS upon the CONTINENT.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

Because the Session's last operative sitting of the House of Lords was purely formal yesterday, it was not the less suggestive, if only by the way of retrospect. The House of Commons has been sitting, like the Frog's Footman, off and on for years and years, and it has passed one bill, which was mutilated, as some of its members aver, and, as most will admit, improved by the Lords' amendments. The House of Lords has not had to be in such constant attendance, but it has done its work more speedily and more effectively. Whence the difference? With a campaign against the Upper House pending and planned, it would be invidious to make too many distinctions, because they would be mostly on one side. But three points may be noted that make for distinction: there are not the petty personalities, there are better manners, and there is the sense of proportion in the House of Lords. Any one who is going to give us a new Second Chamber, when his time comes to do so, will kindly hint three superior attractions for his nominees. For no one can deny that the House of Lords as at present constituted does great business. Where would the Liberal caricaturists be without it?

The Bermondsey Vestry is justified. It had only to speak, and the Lords obeyed. So says Mr. Herbert Paul, M.P., and the "enthusiastic meeting at Chelsea" apparently accepted his statement. So great is the terror inspired by a single vestry that if two vestries were to get together and take a firm stand we believe that the House of Lords would abolish itself. This is a solution of the present difficulty which we commend to the agitators. The utter ineffectiveness of Mr. Gladstone's last will and testament is shown by the way in which the Peers agitation is fading away. Notwithstanding that vigorous message to his party, the embers are smoking themselves out, and not even Mr. T. P. O'Connor's eloquence can revive the life in them. And when Lord Rosebery presides at the councils of the party, do these foolish Radicals suppose he is going to sound the battle-cry against his own House? The ridiculous movement is only waiting for the appointment of Lord Rosebery to receive its death-blow; and it will meet its fate without protest.

THE UNITED LIBERAL PARTY.

Mrs. O'Riley and Mrs. Downs have a very singular notion of a practical joke. These ladies, who appear to be in irreproachable stations of life, thought in their hearts that it would be a funny thing to go about ordering goods under fictitious names, and stealing boxes of chocolates. Whatever joke there may be in this was not allowed to ripen, for they were arrested, and had to appear yesterday before Mr. Lane on a common charge of theft. Mr. Lane seems, like us, to have found it difficult to see where the joke came in; and apparently, from their tears, the ladies also thought they had made a mistake. But as a good many witnesses were found to protest the impossibility of any wicked motive, he was induced to think there might have been some strange decadent or deliquescent fun in it. We are not yet educated up to Mrs. O'Riley's and Mrs. Downs's level of practical joking. And we don't think we want to be, if it is going to take us into the police court.

We hasten to add the names of the *Star* and the *Evening News* to that of the *Times*, as being sufficiently just to acknowledge the accuracy of the *Pall Mall's* "canard." There is now a glorious trinity of generous editors. The rest is silence, covering larceny.

The Parisian press is practically silent about the creature Ducret's insult to Lord Dufferin—or rather, attempted insult, for nobody can really feel hurt by anything that an accomplice in forgery and a confessed receiver of bribes may say. It is not to the interest of either country that the representative of one should be improperly treated. Fancy the howl that would rise to heaven, clamouring for vengeance, if *Reynolds's Newspaper* were to announce that M. Decrais had asked to be recalled because he was mixed up with a diplomatic scandal, and that M. Carnot had telegraphed to him to return to Paris by the first train. Doubtless we shall be held up to execration by the whole press of France for having so much as dared to imagine such a slight upon the untarnished scutcheon of the Republic. But why is the French press silent now? They ought to compel M. Casimir-Périer to do what Lord Dufferin cannot ask him to do—that is imprison the creature Ducret and suppress his newspaper. It would be for M. Casimir-Périer's own comfort if he did something of the sort. But he cannot be asked officially to do it.

A writer in the *Hardwareman* who has spent some time in inspecting German prisons comes back to his native country bursting with a terrific secret. He has discovered the source of cheap and nasty German goods, and delivers his burning message to his fellow hardwareman. It appears that in Germany prison labour is hired out to concessionaires, who first instil into the convicts a clumsy primitive knowledge of a trade, and then turn them on to production. German buyers know this prison article well, and will have none of it. So off it goes to England, for the English are dull, simple people, and take a long time to find out anything. However, thanks to the *Hardwareman*, we have at last found out German-made goods. It is certainly a wonderful story, and almost deserves the subheading of the indignant Commissioner: "A fraud upon capital: a crime against labour." We fear, however, it will still take a long time to persuade English people to give up buying in the cheapest market. It will take a deal of experience to convince them of the false economy of this.

There is no difficulty in understanding why the London vestries never tire of waging war against the costermongers. It is a matter of business, of competition. Very few vestrymen are not small shopkeepers themselves; or they have been small shopkeepers; or they cannot help remembering that their constituents are small shopkeepers. Even when a tradesman, who may or may not have been a coster himself, a coster who has "come into a little bit of 'splosh," goes to the expense, as the small tradesman is wont to phrase it, of renting and fitting up a shop, he is naturally displeased that a man with a barrow should be able to set his "pitch" outside the shop door and undersell the shopman. That is an extreme case. But there can be no doubt that wherever he may take his station the coster diverts to himself the custom of all whose instinct makes them prefer to buy off a barrow. The small tradesman mouths his complaint in the vestries, and instead of cutting down prices, tries to "queer the coster's pitch," to crush him off the streets, and to invoke the strong arm of the law on his own behalf. Now, costermonger or greengrocer, a man thinks he has a right to live; and if the costermonger can beat the greengrocer there is no possible objection to his doing so. Most people, therefore, sympathize with the weaker side in this war.

In 1817 the vestries got themselves and their clients protected by an Act of Parliament known as Michael Angelo Taylor's Act. The question at issue between the two parties is whether this Act was repealed or was not repealed by the Metropolitan Street Acts of 1869. When the Holborn Board of Works tried to eradicate the competition of costerdom about three years ago, the case was taken before the High Court, and Lord Coleridge ruled that the Street Acts did repeal Michael Angelo Taylor's. But we can quite understand that there were a thousand reasons why the vestries should refuse to be controlled by a decision of Lord Coleridge's, reasons which are not germane to the present case. Therefore when a coster recovered damages in the County Court from the Stoke Newington Vestry for the removal of his barrow, the vestry appealed to a Divisional Court, and two judges ruled against them. Yesterday they went before the Court of Appeal, and three Lords Justices upheld the finding of the Divisional Court. So there are now six judges on the costermongers' side, and we are glad of it; for there is something like meanness in the vestries' action. Besides, the coster is a far better fellow on the whole than his rival, and never votes Radical.

A WEDDING GIFT.

I wonder what would please you best | I'd send you all your promises
If I should bid you choose it? | But they, you know, are broken;
I'd have it wake my memory | Your kisses, too, I gave you back—
Whene'er you chance to use it. | A token for a token.

So, if you scorn me, let my scorn
For blessing with you tarry;
If pity, take my pity, dear—
A gift to him you marry.

"Twenty Years After" ("Vingt ans après") is the title of a pamphlet just published by the Rev. Auguste Jacot, the well-known Catholic clergyman at Fèves, near Metz, who for years past has pleaded for the fullest reconciliation with Germany. In the present treatise he strongly asserts that his views are in accordance with the now prevailing sentiment of the majority of the people of Lorraine. He says:—"In France they try to make out that we are downtrodden helots, always in fear of being cuffed, weeping for the lost Fatherland, and cursing the victor. Not a bit of it! We are not sitting, like a group of Jeremiahs, on the smoking ruins of a lost past. We are quite well off, and I only wish the lying fellows who thus talk about us would once come here. Everywhere they would find well-being and comfort; excellently kept roads; workmen who amply gain their livelihood; nay, also newspapers frankly criticising Government, and blaming those who have accepted the new state of things. And yet you say that we are not free!"

"At first," M. Jacot observes—"that is, immediately after the annexation—we had a notion as if the Prussians were barbarians, and that a reign of terror would begin. Hence the considerable emigration. But in course of time we made better acquaintance with them, and we came to esteem each other. We are now quite content with our lot. Nowhere in the country are sad and sullen faces to be seen. Everywhere gay festivities are taking place, even when recruiting is going on. The descriptions of French journals as to the 'ever-mourning Alsace-Lorraine' are nothing but falsehoods." This pronouncement is all the more remarkable as the Rev. Auguste Jacob is not only an ardent Roman Catholic priest, who would even like to see the Jesuits recalled, but also insists on the full maintenance of his own language in the French-speaking part of the province, in both of which respects he is, so to say, "again the Government." The few Parisian journalists who have visited Lorraine within the last few years have, on their part, not been able to deny that a great change has come over the population, at which they expressed both their surprise and their deep regret.

British authors' interests in their copyrights are largely protected by the provisions of the law in regard to the importation of copyright matter, which is administered by the Customs Departments, both in the United Kingdom and the colonies. Under this law the importation of all copyright matter into the British dominions is prohibited, provided that notice of the existence of such copyright has been given to the Customs Department, the work then being entered in the official list, a revised copy of which has just been issued. Considering the advantages which are obtainable by complying with the proper regulations, it is surprising how many popular works are not to be found in the list; consequently, such works may be legally imported without hindrance, although, of course, liable to seizure if offered for sale in this country. These lists are in use at all the chief ports in the empire, as many travellers with British reprints have found to their cost, when such works have been discovered in the examination of their baggage. From time to time additions are made on the publication of fresh works by the issue of printed circulars.

Aluminium is certainly one of the metals of the future. The Admiralty are experimenting with a view to using it as a substitute for brass in the construction of torpedo-tubes and fittings, as mounted in our first-class torpedo boats. Foreign Governments are also beginning to use it, and the Germans are exceedingly well-pleased with the new water-bottles made of this metal recently introduced into the German army. These water-bottles are covered with felt, and weigh less than half as much as the old pattern, while experiments have proved that any of the fluids ordinarily used can be carried in the new bottles with perfect safety.

THE ART OF MAP-MAKING.

A Visit to the Ordnance Survey Department.

We are all familiar with what is called an "Ordnance Map," with its minute detail and accurate information. Yet the thought of the immense labour involved in its construction occurs to only one person in a hundred. The office work in connection with the ordnance maps is done at Southampton, but the basis of that work is laid in the field. Sometimes, without any warning, two or three men appear in a country district, set up some strange-looking instruments—mistaken by the uninitiated for a new sort of camera—seem to stroll about aimlessly for a short time, and then disappear as quietly as they came. These men are taking observations, noting down distances, and ascertaining levels, and upon the accuracy of their work all the trustworthiness of the map depends. Their method is based on a system of triangulation. Two stations are selected, visible from one another, and the distance between them is measured by chains, glass rods, or some other very accurate means. Then a third station is chosen, visible from both the former ones. The imaginary lines connecting the three stations form a triangle, and by means of the angles the relations of the sides of the triangle to one another can be definitely known. But one of these sides is already measured in feet, &c., so that the other two can be deduced from it. This process is repeated for a further station, until the whole of the district to be surveyed is theoretically covered with a network of triangles. Of course all this involves enormous labour, and a very slight mistake repeated through so many calculations may make a large total of error. The work, therefore, is checked by a great many different persons, which minimises the risk.

Care and Delicacy.

There are nearly seven hundred workmen employed at Southampton, besides a contingent of men and officers from the Royal Engineers. The maps are made on various scales. The largest is 10.56 feet to the mile, and the smallest ten miles to the inch. The best known to the public is one inch to the mile. These maps are reproduced both from copper and zinc. From copper two kinds of maps are made, one with outlines only, and the other with all the hill scenery filled in by graduated shading. Both these kinds of maps have their genesis at the camera, which will be more accurately described below. The field maps in outline are reduced by photography to the size required—let us say, for example, to a one-inch scale. An impression of this in faint blue ink is given to the man who is to paint in the hill-scenery. The outlines are to serve him as a guide. The first room which visitors are shown is where this work is going on. The workman copies drawings sent from the field, which he has to reduce and combine within the compass of his one-inch outline map. He works with fine brushes and liquid Indian ink. The depth of shading denotes the height of the hills; and it is so minutely done that the workman uses a magnifier like that of a watchmaker. This great delicacy, of course, requires much time. The man whom we questioned said he did on an average a square inch a day.

The Etching of the Map.

In the next room the men were seated at desks, with large slanting frames of tissue paper above their work to ensure an even light. The finished brush drawing from the first room is given to the man who is going to etch it on copper. He first makes a tracing of the outlines, contours of the hills, &c., on gelatine. (A contour is the line which runs round a hill at one level.) The surface of the gelatine is scratched by the tracing point. It is then rubbed over with red chalk, which remains in the lines. The etcher next prepares a part of his copper plate by spreading over it an etching ground, which is something like wax. The tracing comes off on to this ground, and the lines guide the etcher. Of course as he is working on the plate, his work has all to be done what children call "looking-glass way." He copies from the finished brush drawing, but has to do it backwards. The difference between etching and engraving is, that in the latter the engraver actually cuts the copper with a sharp point, whereas in etching the point only lays bare the copper by cutting through the wax, and does not scratch the plate at all. The hill shading is done by fine lines drawn by a sharp point. When the workman has drawn a portion of the map on the etching ground, he puts a wall of wax round it to prevent the acid spreading, and covers the part done with a mixture of acid and water. The acid eats into the copper, wherever the needle has laid it bare, and consequently when the acid is taken away, and the etching ground washed off with turpentine, the lines remain bitten-in on the surface of the copper. When the man has completed the whole plate by working at it in portions as described, he passes it on to another, who goes most carefully over the whole, comparing every detail with the copy. Where he thinks the lines too fine he deepens them, working with a sharp point. Of course he has to be very careful to keep the whole work at the same relative strength. The copper plate, so prepared, is passed on to a further room. We have now traced the map with hill-shading from the camera to the finished plate, we must leave it there for a moment, until we see what becomes of the outline map. This also begins at the camera. The outline map made in the field is reduced by photography to the size required. A tracing of this outline photograph is given to the engraver. He spreads a thin coating of wax over his copper plate, and lays the tracing accurately upon it by means of points previously determined. Then, guided by the tracing lines, he cuts the copper through the wax with a sharp point. Every part of this map is engraved by hand, even the names of towns and villages. This latter seemed to an outsider one of the most difficult pieces of work. A man rules parallel horizontal lines across the plate to keep the lettering straight, and then cuts in the names the reverse way. These names are in various type, to denote towns, boroughs, or villages. Both the outline map on copper, and hill map on copper, now go to the electrotyping room. Here fac-similes of the plates are made, which are used to print from, and this saves the original plates the wear and tear of passing through the printing-press.

Further Processes.

These duplicates go to the printing room. The plate, as we will now call the duplicate, is dabbed over with printers' ink by one man, and passed on to another, who wipes the ink off the surface, leaving it only in the lines. This seems to be an easy process, but it really requires great skill and experience. The plate has to be taken out, cleaned, and re-inked each time. This handwork is what makes the operation comparatively slow. So it was found to be impossible to turn out all the maps required in a reasonable time. Thus photo-zincography and zincography were introduced. These processes are also much cheaper than the copper, and the maps done by them are quite good enough for all practical purposes.

In the "zinc" processes the camera is also first put in requisition. It is very large and is stationary; in fact, it is really a small room. There is a great stand inside with lines marked on it, so that the exact size of the print required can be judged. The wet-plate process is in vogue. When a print has been taken, skilled workmen inspect it to discover any defects, which they correct on the negative, working with lamp-black prepared and a sharp point. A print is taken from the corrected negative, on paper covered with gelatine. This print is laid face downwards on a plate covered with a coating of transfer ink. After being taken off, it is floated in hot water and sponged, until the gelatine comes away, leaving only the original lines covered with a coating of the transfer ink. A plate of zinc is prepared to a grained surface by being rubbed with sand. The print is then placed face downwards on this. It is subjected to great pressure, and the back is kept continually moistened. When it is peeled off, the lines of transfer ink are left on the zinc plate. The whole plate is washed over with acid, and allowed to remain for a little while: then the acid is washed off, and the ink lines cleaned off with turpentine. The acid has affected the surface of the plate, except where it has been protected by the ink lines. If the plate is kept moist the printer's ink will only adhere to the parts not affected by the acid.

The last place we visited was the correction room, where old maps, made many years ago, are sent up with corrections and alterations marked in red ink. The workmen erase and alter these on the plates.

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TRIUMPHS OF A TAXIDERMIST.

A Confidential Conversation.

Here are some of the secrets of taxidermy. They were told me by the taxidermist in a mood of elation. He told me them in the time between the first glass of whisky and the fourth, when a man is no longer cautious and yet not drunk. We sat in his den together; his library it was, his sitting and his eating-room, separated by a bead curtain, so far as the sense of sight went, from the noisome den where he plied his trade.

He sat on a deck chair, and, when he was not tapping refractory bits of coal with them, he kept his feet, on which he wore, after the manner of sandals, the holy relics of a pair of carpet slippers, out of the way upon the mantel-piece among the glass eyes. And his trousers, by the bye—though they have nothing to do with his triumphs—were a most horrible yellow plaid, such as they made when our fathers wore side whiskers and there were crinolines in the land. Further, his hair was black, his face rosy, and his eye a fiery brown; and his coat was chiefly of grease upon a basis of velveteen. And his pipe had a bowl of china showing the Graces, and his spectacles were always askew, the left eye glaring nakedly at you, small and penetrating; the right, seen through a glass darkly, magnified and mild. Thus his discourse ran:—"There never was a man who could stuff like me, Bellows, never. I have stuffed elephants and I have stuffed moths, and the things have looked all the livelier and better for it. And I have stuffed human beings—chiefly amateur ornithologists. But I stuffed a nigger once.

"No, there is no law against it. I made him with all his fingers out and used him as a hat-rack, but that fool Homersby got up a quarrel with him late one night and spoilt him. That was before your time. It is hard to get skins, or I would have another.

"Unpleasant? I don't see it. Seems to me taxidermy is a promising third course to burial or cremation. You could keep all your dear ones by you. Bric-à-brac of that sort stuck about a house would be as good as most company and much less expensive. You might have them fitted up with clockwork to do things.

"Of course they would have to be varnished, but they need not shine more than lots of people do naturally. Old Manningtree's bald head. . . . Anyhow you could talk to them without interruption. Even aunts. There is a great future before taxidermy, depend upon it. There is fossils, again . . . ."

He suddenly became silent.

"No. I don't think I ought to tell you that." He sucked at his pipe thoughtfully. "Thanks, yes. Not too much water.

"Of course, what I tell you now will go no further. You know I have made some dodos and a great auk? No? Evidently you are an amateur at taxidermy. My dear fellow, half the great auks in the world are about as genuine as the handkerchief of Saint Veronica, as the Holy Coat of Trèves. We make 'em of grebes' feathers and the like. And the great auk's eggs too!"

"Good heavens!"

"Yes, we make them out of fine porcelain. I tell you it is worth while. They fetch—one fetched £300 only the other day. That one was really genuine, I believe, but, of course, one is never certain. It is very fine work, and afterwards you have to get them dusty, for no one who owns one of these precious eggs has ever the temerity to clean the thing. That's the beauty of the business. Even if they suspect an egg they do not like to examine it too closely. It's such brittle capital at the best.

"You did not know that taxidermy rose to heights like that. My boy, it has risen higher. I have rivalled the hands of Nature herself. One of the *genuine* great auks," his voice fell to a whisper; "one of the *genuine* great auks *was made by me.*

"No. You must study ornithology, and find out which it is yourself. And what is more, I have been approached by a syndicate of dealers to stock one of the unexplored skerries to the north of Iceland with specimens. I may—some day. But I have another little thing in hand just now. Ever heard of the dinornis?

"It is one of those big birds recently extinct in New Zealand. 'Moa' is its common name, so called because extinct: there is no moa now. See? Well, they have got bones of it, and from some of the marshes even feathers and dried bits of skin. Now, I am going to—well, there is no need to make any bones about it—going to *forge* a complete stuffed moa. I know a chap out there who will pretend to make the find in a kind of antiseptic swamp, and say he stuffed it at once, as it threatened to fall to pieces. The feathers are peculiar, but I have got a simply lovely way of dodging up singed bits of ostrich plume. Yes, that is the new smell you notice. They can only discover the fraud with a microscope, and they will hardly care to pull a nice specimen to bits for that.

"In this way, you see, I give my little push in the advancement of science.

"But all this is merely imitating Nature. I have done more than that in my time. I have—beaten her."

He took his feet down from the mantel-board, and leant over confidentially towards me. "I have *created* birds," he said, in a low voice. "*New* birds. Improvements. Like no birds that were ever seen before."

He resumed his attitude during an impressive silence.

"Enrich the universe; *rath*-er. Some of the birds I made were new kinds of humming birds, and very beautiful little things, but some of them were simply rum. The rummest, I think, was the *Anomalopteryx Jejuna. Jejunus-a-um*—empty—so called because there was really nothing in it; a thoroughly empty bird—except for stuffing. Old Javvers has the thing now. And I suppose he is almost as proud of it as I am. It is a masterpiece, Bellows. It has all the silly clumsiness of your pelican, all the solemn want of dignity of your parrot, all the gaunt ungainliness of a flamingo, with all the extravagant chromatic conflict of a mandarin duck. *Such* a bird. I made it out of the skeletons of a stork and a toucan and a job lot of feathers. Taxidermy of that kind is just pure joy, Bellows, to a real artist in the art.

"How did I come to make it? Simple enough, as all great inventions are. One of those young genii who write us Science Notes in the papers got hold of a German pamphlet about the birds of New Zealand, and translated some of it by means of a dictionary, and his mother wit—he must have been one of a very large family with a small mother—and he got mixed between the living apteryx and the extinct anomalopteryx; talked about a bird, five feet high, living in the jungles of the North Island, rare, shy specimens difficult to obtain, and so on. Javvers, who, even for a collector, is a miraculously ignorant man, read these paragraphs and swore he would have the thing at any price. Raided the dealers with inquiries. It shows what a man can do by persistence—will-power. Here was a bird collector swearing he would have a specimen of a bird that did not exist, that never had existed, and which for very shame of its own profane ungainliness probably would not exist now it could help itself. And he got it. *He got it.*"

"Have some more whisky, Bellows?" said the taxidermist, rousing himself from a transient contemplation of the mysteries of will-power and the collecting turn of mind. And, replenished, he proceeded to tell me of how he concocted a most attractive mermaid, and how an itinerant preacher who could not get an audience because of it smashed it because it was idolatry, or worse, at Burslem Wakes. But as the conversation of all the parties to this transaction, creator, would-be preserver, and destroyer, was uniformly unfit for publication, this cheerful incident must still remain unprinted.

The reader unacquainted with the dark ways of the collector may perhaps be inclined to doubt my taxidermist, but so far as great auk's eggs and the bogus stuffed birds are concerned, I find that he has the confirmation of distinguished ornithological writers. And the note about the New Zealand bird certainly appeared in a morning paper of unblemished reputation. Evidently there are more things in heaven and earth, and more particularly in private museums, than are dreamt of in our philosophies.

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REVIEWS.

"THE RISE OF MODERN DEMOCRACY."*

M. CHARLES BORGEAUD, of Geneva, has traced back the democratic idea of to-day to the republican communities of the New England States of North America, and to the sectarian theorists of the English civil wars, when Charles I. was king. His valuable essays have been done into English by Mrs. Birkbeck Hill, and her labours and M. Borgeaud's are prefaced by a contribution from the learned if somewhat ponderous pen of Mr. Charles Firth, of Balliol College. Probably all M. Borgeaud says is very true, but its absolute novelty does not strike one so much as it seems to impress Mr. Charles Firth. It is no commonplace of history to affirm that the Protestant Reformation created virtually the possibility of the democratic idea. Still a good many people before M. Borgeaud have indicated the truth. M. Borgeaud, however, has documents, and they are certainly worth consideration. The Commonwealth years in England were years of exotic growth in many mental directions. Their full importance has been very little appreciated, nor will they be seen to advantage until some pen neither partisan nor professional gives them their due. Between 1648 and 1660 there was a mushroom-like outcrop of political ideas, some of which at once were successfully carried across the Atlantic, while others, after many days, are making themselves felt in their native soil. That the influences of the Reformation brought them to the surface is one of those theoretic discoveries which searchers after ideas love to emphasize and dwell on. But the democratic idea lies deeper than the time of Calvin or Luther, and owes its life to the disintegration of far earlier elements.

However, M. Borgeaud and Mr. Charles Firth, and one may assume Mrs. Birkbeck Hill, are all very happy over their theory, and among them they have created and translated and prefaced as solemn and dull a little work as is given to defective human nature to bring to perfection. The earnest democrat, however, does not despise dulness, and for him the pages of M. Borgeaud will have all the charms of an Apocrypha.

* "Rise of Modern Democracy in Old and New England." By Charles Borgeaud. Translated by Mrs. Birkbeck Hill. (Swan Sonnenschein and Co. 1894.)

ANCIENT ARMS AND ARMOUR.†

IN the preface to this most interesting and truly magnificent work Mr. Edwin J. Brett states, and few will dispute his word, that "every one, from the uncultured boy to the most advanced student of history, feels a fascination in the subject of Arms and Armour, and regards with admiration and wonder the specimens of ancient handicraft, which far surpass anything the present day can produce." There can hardly be any man, for this is a man's subject, who, if he has been a genuine schoolboy, will not echo Mr. Brett's sentiment. Every boy, who has had the inestimable benefit of a classical education, will recollect how this subject of Arms and Armour has shone like a bright spot through his struggle with the prosody and declensions of the so-called dead languages. The Homeric legends are full of it. What line is more familiar than—

δούπησεν δὲ πεσών, ἀράβησε δὲ τεύχε' ἐπ' αὐτῷ?

What is the turning-point of the Iliad but the capture of Achilles's armour from the dead body of Patroclus, and the mission of Thetis to Vulcan to obtain fresh armour for her hero son? Again, was it not the contest for Achilles's armour which drove Ajax of Telamon into melancholy and suicide? Virgil in his epic poem is even more explicit. Where Homer sings "The Wrath" in the Iliad and "The Man" in the Odyssey, Virgil boldly puts forward "Arms and the Man" as his subject, and proves true to his aim. Take again the Teuton epics. In that long, that very long lay of the Nibelungs, is there any moment comparable to that where Siegfried (or Sigurd) discovers Brynhild asleep in her armour, and when

> The eager edges he setteth to the Dwarf-wrought battle-coat,
> Where the hammered ring-knit collar constraineth the woman's throat,

and finds his fate in Woman, Beauty, and Love?

It is not, however, as a scholar or historian that Mr. Brett comes before us. It is as a collector, as a man with a hobby which has, as he says, "for twenty-five years engaged my unremitting attention;" and it is in this capacity that he will earn the gratitude and unstinted praise of all into whose hands his book may come.

Mr. Brett touches but lightly upon "ancient" arms and armour. Even about mediæval armour he is somewhat reticent, though his few remarks on this period show him quite qualified to deal with this subject. A true collector, Mr. Brett is not eloquent until he is within the period when collecting is possible, possible from an æsthetic as well as an antiquarian point of view.

It is curious that the collecting of arms and armour by the private amateur is a matter which is almost wholly identified, and will probably remain so, with the nineteenth century. Great national armouries exist, which have been formed by mere accumulation of time—such as those at Turin, Munich, Vienna, Malta, and elsewhere, including that in the Tower of London, on which Viscount Dillon, the director of the Society of Antiquaries, and perhaps the greatest living authority on armour, has lately passed some scathing criticisms. The great Ambras collection, now at Vienna, is perhaps the only one which can be said to have been formed by anything approaching to private enterprise. The pioneer of armour-collecting in this country, excluding the once famous Captain Grose and his book on "Ancient Arms and Armour," was Sir Samuel Meyrick. There may be some of our readers who remember the exhibition of the Meyrick collection of arms and armour in the sheds at South Kensington, subsequently occupied by the National Portrait Gallery. The much regretted dispersal of the Meyrick collection made others possible, including the collection of Mr. Brett, who acquired some of his finest examples more or less directly therefrom. Such collections should never be dispersed. May Mr. Brett's remain intact, and that formed by the late Sir Richard Wallace, and that by Mr. Stibbert on the slopes of Fiesole near Florence. It may be that the sale of the great Spitzer collection of arms and armour will prove the last of its kind, inasmuch as there will be no genuinely good armour left for future generations to collect.

Armour is a ticklish subject for an amateur to embark upon. It is forged in more senses than one, thanks to the inadequacy of our English language, which unites in the same word the noble significance of the armourer's craft with that of the most insignificant fabricator, say of postage stamps. Few can imagine how the names of Romagnesi and San Ferico sound in the ears of any true connoisseur of armour.

The bulk of Mr. Brett's collection appears to consist of arms and armour of what may be called the Renaissance period. It was then that the highest decorative skill was brought to bear upon armour, so much of it being used for merely ornamental purposes or for luxurious ostentation in tournaments or public festivals. Naturally it is this class of armour which has been most easily preserved, and forms the nucleus of every collection. A perusal of Mr. Brett's book will, to take an instance, enable a student of helmets to distinguish between a "bascinet," a "beaume," a "salade," an "armet," and a "morion." He will also, if in such a parlous state of ignorance, learn to distinguish between the visor and the bevor; in short, he will long for the opportunity of casing himself in a suit of armour, in order to test the skill and beauty of the mechanism by which it was adapted to the movements and for the protection of the body, being really, no doubt, much less cumbrous than it actually appears to be.

There is something charmingly out of date about arms and armour. We cannot imagine our modern knights and esquires, in spite of their goodly titles, pricking forth to battle or business clad in other than broadcloth and braces. The breastplate, it is true, is preserved in the uniform of the Household Cavalry, but it serves chiefly to reflect the sun's rays on parade, or on more favoured occasions the melting eyes of Mary Ann or Susan Jane. True also, that we clothe our ships, as our ancestors did their horses, in armour; but experience would seem to show that the chief object, intentional or otherwise, is to test the penetrating power of projectiles, or, when one of the said armoured ships "turns turtle," to mercifully accelerate the rapidity with which its multitudinous inhabitants are hurried to their doom.

We would fain dilate on many points of interest in Mr. Brett's handsome volume. If the plates are somewhat cold and flat, we must remember that there is no Jules Jacquemart alive, or any one capable of repeating his feats of engraving metal or chased and jewelled objects. We most cordially recommend this volume to our readers, none of whom, we believe, can fail to derive from it both knowledge and recreation.

† A Pictorial and Descriptive Record of the Origin and Development of Arms and Armour, to which are appended 133 Plates specially drawn from the Author's Collection at Oaklands, St. Peter's, Thanet, and Burleigh House, London. By Edwin J. Brett. (London: Sampson Low, Marston and Co. 1894.)

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LITERARY NOTES.

The second and concluding volume of Miss Betham Edwards's "France of To-day" is to be issued by Messrs. Rivington, Percival, and Co. in the course of next week. Miss Betham Edwards has received a very high compliment from Mr. Frederic Harrison, which is so much the worse for Miss Betham Edwards.

Some unpublished reminiscences of Dante Gabriel Rossetti's student days and career in art will appear in a work which Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston, and Co. have in the press for immediate publication, entitled "Dante G. Rossetti and the Pre-Raphaelite Movement," by Mrs. J. W. Wood. Several important drawings and studies of Rossetti's have been reproduced for the first time through the courtesy of Lord Battersea, Mr. Moncure D. Conway, and others, which will appear in the book as full-page photogravure illustrations. The work will describe the founding of the Pre-Raphaelite brotherhood and its long conflict against academic traditions.

Messrs. Hutchinson and Co. have in the press for early publication, a volume to be entitled "Middle Temple Table Talk," by Mr. W. G. Thorpe, F.S.A., a barrister of the society. Mr. Thorpe, we believe, will take this opportunity of advancing some queer notions about Bacon and Shakspeare.

Messrs. Macmillan have in the press "Molluscs," by the Rev. A. H. Cooke, M.A., Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, being the first volume of a new series to be called "The Cambridge Natural History." It will be complete in ten fully illustrated volumes, and covering the natural history of invertebrate and vertebrate animals. The series is being edited by J. W. Clark, M.A., Registrar of the University of Cambridge; Mr. S. F. Harmer, M.A., Superintendent of the Museum of Zoology, and Mr. A. E. Shipley, M.A., Demonstrator in Comparative Anatomy and Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge.

A new enlarged and revised edition of the late Sir William Smith's "Classical Dictionary of Mythology, Biography, and Geography," with many fresh plans, and over eight hundred illustrations, is in hand for early publication by Mr. John Murray. It has been edited by Mr. G. E. Marindin, M.A., formerly Fellow of King's College, Cambridge.

On the completion of its serial run, Messrs. Methuen and Co. will publish Mr. Stanley J. Weyman's novel "Under the Red Robe" in book form in this country, and Messrs. Longmans will be the publishers in America. Another story, "The Man in Black," by this promising writer has just been published by Messrs. Cassell and Co.

Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston, and Co. will publish in the spring a new work by Mr. Justin Winsor, the author of a narrative and critical history of America published a few years ago in eight bulky volumes. It is entitled "Cartier to Frontenac: a Study of Geographical Discovery in the Interior of North America in its Historical Relations, 1534—1700," and will be fully illustrated with maps and plans reproduced from contemporary sources. Mr. Winsor commences his new work with an introductory chapter, "From Columbus to Cartier," and then more fully follows the fortunes of subsequent discoverers and explorers up to the death of Frontenac at the close of the seventeenth century.

The Gifford Lectures on Religion, delivered this session in the University of Edinburgh by Professor Pfleiderer, of Berlin, will be published soon by Messrs. Blackwood and Sons.

Mark Twain's new book, "Tom Sawyer Abroad," a sequel to "Tom Sawyer," will appear next month.

Mr. Swinburne's new volume, "Astrophel, and Other Poems," will be published shortly by Messrs. Chatto and Windus. It will contain a series of memorial verses on Browning, Tennyson, Richard Burton, and others, besides a number of other poems. The volume will be dedicated in verse to Mr. William Morris. Messrs. Chatto also announce for early issue, "The Recollections of H. S. Marks, R.A.," in two volumes, with portraits and numerous illustrations.

A second series of Mr. Austin Dobson's "Eighteenth Century Vignettes" is in preparation.

Captain Hamilton Bower's "Diary of a Journey Across Tibet" is promised early in the spring. The author crossed Tibet from east to west, covering 800 miles of new country. A list of the many new botanical species found will supplement the work.

Some hitherto unpublished anecdotes of Lord Tennyson, Thackeray, Mr. Henry Irving, Mr. Edwin Booth, Sir Charles Russell, and other celebrities will appear in Mr. Frankfort Moore's "A Journalist's Notebook," which work Messrs. Hutchinson are about to publish. Mr. Moore is the author of that successful novel, "A Grey Eye or So."

A new poem by Mr. Rudyard Kipling called "The Rhyme of the True Thomas," has been secured by Mr. Jerome for early publication in *To-Day*.

"A London Rose, and Other Rhymes," by Mr. Ernest Rhys—a work shortly to be published by Messrs. Mathews and Lane—contains, among other poems, some novel experiments with old Welsh metres in English dress.

Professor Herbert Ryle is editing for Messrs. Macmillan and Co. a set of introductions to the books of the Bible, intended primarily for the use of theological students at the Universities and elsewhere, but so arranged as to offer to the general reader also a complete and readable account of the several groups of books in the light of modern criticism. Ten volumes are now in hand.

"A GOLFER'S SONG."

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—Mr. Matheson's explanation is, of course, complete and convincing, and I hasten to offer him my sincere apologies for the imputation contained in my letter of yesterday.

I trust, however, that he will at the same time accept my positive assurance that I had never seen or heard his verses when I wrote mine.

I am aware that the verdict of those who absolutely disbelieve in "literary coincidences" will go heavily against me; but perhaps I may be allowed to point out to less thorough sceptics that if the possibility be granted of the same central idea (namely—a parody of Longfellow's "Arrow and Song," with Ball = Arrow, and Big D = Song) occurring to two persons independently, the verbal coincidences between our two versions consist entirely of those lines which we have both borrowed from the original.—Faithfully yours,

2, *Bradbourne-villas, Sevenoaks, March* 1. FRANK RITCHIE.

THE WARES OF AUTOLYCUS.

INDISPENSABLE CHEESE.

With bread and cheese and kisses for daily fare, life is held to be perfect by the poet. But love may grow bitter before cheese loses its savour. Therefore the wise, who value the pleasures of the table above tender dalliance, put their faith in strong Limburger or fragrant Brie rather than in empty kisses. If only this lesson of wisdom could be mastered by all men and women, how much less cruel life might be!

Nor is cheese without its poetry to comfort the hater of pure prose. Once the "glory of fair Sicily," there must ever linger about it sweet echoes of Sicilian song sung under the wild olives and beneath the elms, where Theocritus "watched the visionary flocks." Did not "a great white cream-cheese" buy that wondrous bowl—the "miracle of varied work"—for which Thyrsis sang the pastoral song? Cheese-fed were the shepherds who piped in the shadow of the ilex tree, while the calves were dancing in the soft green grass; cheese-scented was the breath of the fair maidens and beautiful youths they loved. Is there a woman with soul so dead, who, when in a little country inn fresh cheese is laid before her, cannot fancy that she sees the goats and kids among the tamarisks of the sun-kissed Sicilian hills, and hears the perfect voices of Daphnis and Menalcas, the two herdsmen "skilled in song"?

Perhaps because cheese has been relegated to the last course at midday breakfast or at dinner has it lost much of its charm for the heedless. But who, indeed, playing with peach or orange at dessert, knows the fruit's true flavour as well as he who plucks it fresh from the tree while wandering through the peach orchards of Delaware, or the orange groves of Florida? Take a long walk over the moors and through the heather, or cycle for hours along winding lanes, and then, at noon, eat a lunch of bread and cheese, and—even without the kisses—you will find in the frugal fare a godlike banquet. Time was when bits cut from the huge carcass of a well battered Cheddar, washed down with foaming shandygaff, seemed more delicious far than the choicest dishes at the Lapérouse or Voisin's. Memory journeys back with joy to the fragrant tough little goat's cheese, with flask of chianti, set out upon the rough wooden table in front of some wayside vine-trellised *albergo*, while traveller and cycle rested at the hour when shade is most pleasant to men. How many a tramp through the valleys and over the passes of Switzerland has been made the easier by the substantial slice of good Gruyère and the cup of wine well cooled in near snow-drifts! How many rides aweel through the pleasant land of France have been the swifter for the Camembert and roll devoured by the way!

Places and hours there are when cheese is best. But seldom is it wholly unwelcome. From dinner, whatever may then be its limitations, it must never be omitted. Remember last week's simile: as well a woman with but one eye as a last course without cheese. But see that you show sympathy and discretion in selecting the variety most in harmony with your *menu*, or else the epicure's labour will indeed be lost. It is not enough to visit the cheesemonger's, and to accept any and every kind offered. The matter is one requiring time and thought and long experience. You must understand the possibilities of each cheese chosen, you must bear in mind the special requirements of each meal prepared. Preposterous it would be truly to serve the mild-flavoured plebeian species from Canada or America after a carefully ordered dinner at Verrey's; wasteful, to use adorable Port Salut or aromatic Roquefort for a pudding or a Welsh rabbit.

Study gastronomic proprieties, cultivate your imagination, and as the days follow each other fewer will be your mistakes. Heavy Stilton and nutritious Cheddar you will know belong by right to undisguised joint and irrepressible greens: to a "good old-fashioned English dinner" they prove becoming accompaniments. Excellent they are, after their fashion, to be honoured and respected; but something of the seriousness and the stolidity of their native land has entered into them, and to gayer, more frivolous moods they are as unsuited as a sermon to a ballroom. If, however, to the joint you sling with tenacity, and solemn Stilton be the cheese of your election, do not fail to ripen it with port of the finest vintage or good old ale gently poured into holes here and there scooped out for the purpose, and then filled once more with the cheese itself.

Strength, fierce in perfume and flavour alike, lies in Limburger, but it is strength which demands not beef or mutton, but *wurst* and *sauerkraut*. Take it not home with you, unless you would place a highly-scented barrier between yourself and your friends; but, in deep thankfulness of heart, eat it after you have lunched well and heartily in the Vienna Café which overlooks Leicester-square, or in that other which commands Mudie's and Oxford-street. And thanks will be deepened a hundredfold if, while eating, you call for a long refreshing draught of Munich beer.

Sweet, redolent of herbs, are gracious Gorgonzola, of which such ribald tales are told by the irreverent, and royal Roquefort, in its silver wrapping; eaten after "the perfect dinner," each has merit immeasurable—merit heightened by a glass of Beaune or Chambertin. Then, too, is the hour for Port Salut, with its soothing suggestion of monastic peace and contentment, alone a safeguard against indigestion and other unspeakable horrors; if you respect your appetite seek it nowhere save in the Deutsche Delicatessen shop, but there order it with an easy conscience and confidence in the white-coated, white-aproned ministering spirit at the counter. Thither also turn for good Camembert; but, as you hope for pleasure in the eating, be not too ready to accept the first box offered: test the cheese within with sensitive finger, and value it according to its softness, for an unripe Camembert, that crumbles at touch of the knife, is deadlier far than all the seven deadly sins. It should be soft and flowing almost as languid *Fromage de Brie*, indolent and melting at a touch of straw. Beyond all cheese, Gruyère calls for study and reflection, so many are the shams by an unscrupulous trade furnished in its place. As palely yellow as a Liberty scarf, as riddled with holes as cellular cotton, it should be sweet as Port Salut, and yet with a reserve of strength that makes it the rival of Limburger.

But blessed among cheeses, a romance in itself, is the creamy, subtle little *Suisse*, delectable as Dumas calls it. Soft and sweet as the breath of spring, it belongs to the season of lilacs and love. Its name evokes a vision of Paris, radiant in the Maytime, the long avenues and boulevards all white and pink with blossoming horse-chestnuts, the air heavy laden with the fragrance of flowers; a vision of the accustomed corner in the old restaurant looking out upon the Seine, and of the paternal waiter bearing the fresh *Suisse* on dainty green leaf. Life holds few such thrilling interludes! You may eat it with salt, and think yourself old and wise; but why not be true to the spirit of spring? Why not let yourself go a little, and, eating your *Suisse* with sugar, be young and foolish and unreasonably happy again?

Authorities there be who rank the *Broccio* of Corsica above the *petit Suisse*, and credit it with delicious freshness and Virgilian flavour. To taste it among its wild hills then, would be well worth the long journey to the island in the Mediterranean. In the meantime, however, none need quarrel with *Suisse*. Hardly a country or district in the world really that has not its own special cheese; he who would discover them all and catalogue them must needs write a treatise on geography.

But to eat cheese in its many varieties, with butter or salt or sugar, as the case may be, and to think its mission thus fulfilled, would be to underestimate its inexhaustible resources. Innumerable are the masterpieces the culinary artist will make of it. In an omelet you would pronounce it unsurpassable, so long as kind fate did not set before you the consummate *Fondue*. As a pudding you would declare it not to be approached, if sometimes crisp cheese straws were not served with dinner's last course. On an ocean voyage Welsh-rabbit late at night will seem to you the marvel of marvels; on a railway journey a cheese sandwich at noon you will think still more miraculous—but let the sandwich be made of brown bread, and mix butter and mustard and anchovies with the cheese. The wonders that may be worked with Parmesan alone—whether in conjunction with macaroni, or soup, or cauliflower, or many a dish beside—would be eloquent text for a new chapter.

BORD'S PIANOS.—25 per cent. discount for cash, or 1l. per month (Second-hand 1l. 5s. per month), on the THREE YEARS SYSTEM. Illustrated List free of CHAS. STILES and CO., 62, Southampton-row, Holborn, W.C. Pianos exchanged.

CITY NOTES.

THE GREEK DEFAULT.—NEW GUARANTEES.

There is, it appears, a good deal of the heroic, the vague, and the meaningless in the reply which the Greek Government are sending to the international committee of bondholders, but which is not yet generally published. Perhaps the nearest approach to the practical is contained in the clauses of the reply which state that the guarantees have only been suspended through urgent necessity, and will be restored in full operation as soon as that necessity shall have disappeared. Nevertheless, it is conceded, if it should be thought desirable to substitute others the Government will raise no objection to the consideration of the question, and will accept those which may be deemed most suitable, it being, however, understood that the guarantees decided upon shall not involve any interference in the administration of the country, or in the management of its finances, or in any way diminish its sovereign rights or its independence.

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

We were able to give in our later editions yesterday an outline of the scheme which has been placed before the members and proprietors of the Stock Exchange, by a circular from a provisional committee, for the abolition of the system of dual control which at present obtains in the House, the proposal being practically that the members shall buy the proprietors out. Under the scheme, as we stated, it is proposed to create 4,000 £250 shares, to be taken up by the members, and to be payable by instalments over ten years, and to offer the shareholders, in exchange for their 20,000 shares, £1,500,000 four per cent. debenture stock and £1,500,000, four per cent. non-cumulative preference stock, redeemable at par half a century hence, the interest and dividend on which will amount to £120,000 annually, or the same sum as the shareholders are now receiving as dividend on their share capital. By subscribing to these shares, which would be known as "seat-shares," the members would be able to pay the £120,000 annually, and would abolish the dual control, while acquiring the voting power, property, assets, and liabilities of the Stock Exchange. No member would be able, under the scheme, to hold more than one of these seat-shares, so that 588 shares out of the 4,000 it is proposed to issue would remain unallotted, there being at present only 3,412 members. This balance would be offered to intending applicants at 350 gs. per seat-share, provided that they could qualify for admission to membership by the usual means for the time being. The scheme includes some attempt to limit the number of members, for it provides that when the whole of the 4,000 seats are occupied no more seat-shares can be issued until the market price reaches £500, when a hundred more may be created. The scheme in fact provides an automatic expansion of membership as the value of seats increases, when the business is found to be increasing sufficiently to warrant the admission of new members. At present there is no great rush for Stock Exchange membership, as we showed a day or two ago when referring to the number of applicants.

THE UNITED STATES DEBENTURE POSITION.

The report of the United States Debenture Corporation has been awaited with much interest. As it is summarized in most of the morning papers, we need not refer to it at length here. Suffice it to say that it points out that the revenue of the corporation has been "seriously diminished," and that the cumulative preference dividend of 5½ per cent. is withheld, it being doubtful whether "in view of the depreciation of the corporation's investments, the directors are legally entitled to pay such dividend." The report confirms our recent statement that the board has been in consultation with three of the shareholders—Colonel Woodhouse, Mr. R. Hill, and Mr. H. E. Hubbart—elected by a body of the largest shareholders, and it has been decided to reduce the capital by £300,400. It is announced that since the close of the year Colonel Rookwood, Mr. Evelyn Ashley, and Mr. Ernest Noel have resigned their position as directors. And there is yet another concession. The board, as at present constituted, have unanimously resolved that any shareholders and debenture stock holders shall have the power of inspecting the corporation's investments mentioned in the balance sheet, and a list of these investments is now to be seen at the office.

TRUSTEES CORPORATION.—THE ANNUAL REPORT.

There is yet another document from the Trustees Corporation—to wit, the annual report, which is just being issued. It states that in accordance with the undertaking given on 28th ult., at the hearing of the petitions for the liquidation of the corporation, the directors will within the next few days issue to the shareholders a statement explaining how the present depreciation has arisen. The shareholders have received Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, and Co.'s report, showing the position of the corporation at the time they made their examination. The directors have already stated that in their opinion the estimate of that report is needlessly unfavourable and they claim that the new balance-sheet more correctly represents the position of the corporation. This balance-sheet shows after writing off the reserve fund and suspense account shown in the last balance-sheet a balance to the debit of profit and loss amounting to £573,404. This amount represents within £27,000 the original paid-up capital of £3 per share, and there is besides the whole of the last call, the response to which the directors state has been very satisfactory.

The trust business, the report says, has been fairly maintained, while the letting of offices, strong rooms, and safes has continued to be satisfactory, considering the unfavourable circumstances that have arisen. In the board's circular of 23rd November, the directors intimated their intention of retiring at the next annual general meeting. In consequence, however, of what took place upon the hearing of the petitions on the 28th ult., and the undertaking then given by counsel on their behalf, the directors are pledged to formulate at once a scheme of arrangement with a view to bringing the same before the court on the adjourned hearing on the 21st inst. Under these circumstances they are not as a body at liberty to retire until this undertaking shall have been fulfilled, and the scheme either successfully carried through or rejected. In accordance with the articles of association, Lord Cranbrook, Mr. Salt, and Mr. Whitmore, three of the directors, retire, but for the reasons above stated consider themselves bound to retain office pending the completion of the scheme of arrangement, and therefore submit themselves for re-election for the short period necessary for that purpose.

TO-DAY'S CITY WEEKLIES.

The *Economist* is scarcely as strong as its admirers might have expected in dealing with the new Indian import duties. It dismisses the subject very curtly, showing a leaning against the exemption of cotton, but an unwillingness to prejudge the case, and stating that while nothing goes more against its grain than to speak in support of an extension of import duties of any kind, if that means of raising revenue is the only one to which the Indian Government can have recourse it is essential that there should be an equitable adjustment of the burden, and that nothiug should be done to give countenance to the view that Indian interests are being sacrificed to those of a section of British traders. Dealing with the forthcoming Budget the *Economist* puts it forward as probable that the actual collection of revenue will fall short of the estimate by at least two millions sterling. The *Statist* has a cheery article on returning business confidence but the feature of the issue is a seven-column article on Indian currency by Mr. Jamsetjee N. Tata, of Bombay, who deals with the subject exhaustively. Among the other principal subjects treated of are the respective outlooks of the Grand Trunk and the Milwaukee Railways, and the marvellous developments in the Transvaal gold mining. Of course, the *Statist* is dead against indiscriminating in favour of cotton in the matter of the Indian import duties; and reverting again to the Bank of England question it advises resignation to some of the directors. The *Railway Times* recommends investment in North Staffordshire Railway stock, and gives its reasons why. The leading article of the *South American Journal* criticises the Argentine decree appointing a so-called committee of inspection of joint-stock companies. The *Australian Trading World* regretfully gives a list of commercial houses whose difficulties, brought about by the recent banking disasters, are asserting themselves at the moment, and it has an interesting memoir of Mr. R. H. Hand, the father of Australian quartz mining, who died recently. *Transport* writes of the value of Mobile as a commercial centre, and makes a passing reference to that spot which now seems to be generally known as the "magic island." The journal issues another of its excellent harbour plans—this time it is Durban. The *British Australasian* deals with the peculiar case of the attack on Australian credit issued under Government auspices. Mr. A. G. V. Peel, a junior clerk of the Treasury, wrote officially an able but in some respects erroneous report on the Australian crisis, at which the colonists have taken great umbrage. Sir George Dibbs wrote a long reply and it is now stated that Mr. Peel's report was only to try his hand and should never have been published. Only a few copies are extant.

MONEY AND STOCKS.

Twelve o'clock.

MARKETS QUIET AND FLAT.—RELAPSE IN AMERICANS.

THE MONEY MARKET.

There is still a considerable demand for short money, but the market is now better supplied, and all requirements to-day have been easily satisfied at about 1½ per cent. Bills have been rather more plentiful, and short-dated paper is a little harder at 1⅝ per cent., while for three months the rate remains at 1¼ per cent.

The following are the rates for loan and discount rates, the Bank rate standing at 2 per cent.:—

Loans. Day ...1½	Deposit. Banks.....—	Discounts 1 & 1¼	Fine Bills 1¼	Trade Bills 1½	Two Months. 1¼	Three Months. 1⅛	Four Months. 1¼	Six Months. 1⅜
7 Days 1½	1¼					⅞	2	2

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Next Coupongo Day.	*Ticket Day.*	*Pay Day.*	*Consols' Pay Day.*
Tuesday, March 13.	Wednesday, March 14.	Thursday, March 15.	Wednesday, April 4.

Business has been of very limited proportions on the Stock Exchange to-day, and the attendance was small, as the bright weather has tempted many operators to stay away. This and the relapse in Americans have given a weak appearance to most of the markets, and quotations are generally lower. Consols for the account, however, are 1-16 better, and Rupee paper has recovered a good fraction. Colonial loans have given way ⅛ to ½ all round. Home Railways have been heavy, but except for a fall of ⅜ in Midlands, there are no movements of importance, and Brighton A is firm. In the Foreign department prices are fairly steady on a decline of one point in the gold premium, and Turkish stocks continue to advance, but other Continental stocks are flat, and silver securities are still drooping. American Railroads have fallen away again on the poor show made by Wall-street yesterday, and business is practically at a standstill. Denvers have not benefited by the favourable statement of the president and manager as to the prospects of the line. Grand Trunks and Canadian Pacifics are weak in sympathy with the American market.

Yield	Av'ge 1893		M'vmt to-day.	Latest Price.
		BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.		
3 12	98¼	Consols (2½) May		99⅞
2 12	96⅞	Do. Account ...	+⅛	99⅞
2 12	96⅞	Do. Jan.&July Certs.		100
2 14	104	Local Loans Stock		105
2 13	103	India 3per Cents.		104
3 1	98½	Do. 3per Cents.		99½ xd
4 0	62⅝	Do. 3per Cent. Stk.	+⅛	63⅛
2 17	104⅜	Bank of England Stk.		269
2 17	104⅜	Ditto, Div. Warrants	—⅛	268
3 0	114½	Bank of Ireland Stock		115
3 0	110⅝	Liverpool 3½ per Cs.		110⅝
		COLONIAL SECURITIES.		
3 7	101	Can'da 3½ p.c. Reg.		104
3 3	100	Do. 3 p.c. Reg.		102½
3 10	101¼	Cape 3½ p.c. Ln.		103
3 13	99¼	Do. 3½ p.c. Ins.		101½
3 15	104	N.S.W. 4 p.c. 1883	—⅛	108⅜
3 15	104	Do. 3½ 1903 ...	—⅛	104
3 14	104⅛	New Zealand 5 p.c. Cs.		106
3 17	103⅜	Queensland 5 p.c.	—⅛	108
3 17	102⅝	S. Australia 5 p.c. Cs.		106½
3 17	103⅜	Do. 4½ p.c. Ln.	—¼	104
3 18	99¼	Victoria 5 p.c. 1885	—⅛	107
3 19	103⅛	Do. 4½ p.c. ...	—⅛	104½
		BRITISH RAILWAYS.		
4 3	165¼	Brighton Ord. ...		168
4 3	150	Do. A ...	+⅛	166½
3 9	114¼	Caledonian ...		123
3 10	115	Deferred ...	—⅛	115½
mk.	19	Chatham Ord. ...		14½
3 17	99	Do. Pref. ...		101
4 0	73⅞	Great Eastern ...	—⅛	80⅞
4 0	93⅜	Gt. North Ord. Def.		99
3 15	104⅝	Do. A Stock ...		112
3 7	104⅜	Great Western ...	—⅛	160⅜
mk.	20	Hull and Rookwood	+⅛	21
3 9	119	Lanc. and York. ...		163½
3 7	83⅜	Do. Consolidated.		116
mk.	26⅞	Met. District ...		29½
3 15	150⅜	Midland	—⅛	150½
mk.	90	North Brit. Pref.		70
4 0	58⅜	Do. Def. ...		60¼
3 11	104¼	North Eastern ...		164½
3 14	104⅝	North Stafford ...		126
3 14	103⅜	South Eastern ...	—⅛	146
		Shefield ...		78
mk.	23⅜	Do. A ...		23
3 13	118	South Eastern ...		120
3 7	74	Do. Deferred...		71½
3 7	104⅜	Do. A ...		104
3 8	83⅜	Do. Deferred...		86
3 6	121¼	Do. Preferred...		120
		FOREIGN STOCKS.		
6 6	63¼	Argentine 6 p.c.1886		64¾
6 6	67⅜	Buenos Ayres Gt'nge		68
...	31	Do. Cousos 5	+⅛	30½
...	31	Do. 6 p.c.	+⅛	30½
7 9	64¼	Brazilian 4½ 1889		64
7 15	28	Do. 5 p.c. ...		28
...	28	Buenos 6 p.c. 1888	—⅛	28
...	99⅛	Do. Cousos 5 ...	—⅛	99
...	99⅛	Do. 6 ...		99
6 12	91	Bulgarian		90½
6 11	93⅝	Chilian 6 amounting	+⅛	93⅜
mk.	17⅜	Colombian		18
4 15	104⅜	Costa Rica	—3⅛	104
10 6	52⅛	Do.	—3	49⅜
15 5	34½	Ecuador, New ...		34
5 11	93⅜	Egyptian State Ord.	+⅛	93⅝
4 0	104	Do. Unified...		104¼
4 0	104⅛	Do. Preferred ...	+⅛	104
3 12	99⅜	Do. New 5 p.c.		99⅜
4 2	104	Do. Guaranteed 4		104
4 7	104	Do. 5 p.c. Rights		104½
...	41⅜	Do. 5 p.c. 1885...		41⅜
...	41⅜	Do. 5 p.c. 1886...		41⅜
...	41⅜	Do. 5 p.c. Annuity		41⅜
10 0	9	Guatemala 6 p.c.		8½
mk.	4⅜	Hamburg 4 p.c. Cs.		104⅜
4 8	99⅜	Hung. Gold Rail's		99½
5 0	97⅝	Italian 5 p.c. Rents	—⅛	97⅝
4 12	84⅜	Mexican 6 p.c. 1888	—⅛	84⅜
mk.	9⅜	Peruv. Consols ...	—⅛	9⅜
mk.	9⅜	Do. Defrncing ...	—⅛	9⅜
11 2	92⅜	Do. Arrears ...		92⅜
4 7	99⅜	Russian 4 p.c. 1889		99⅜
4 7	99⅜	Spanish 4 per ...	+⅛	99⅜
4 16	90⅜	Transvaal		90⅜
1 13	95⅜	Uruguay Conv. 3s.		95⅜
4 16	74⅜	Do. 6s.		74⅜
4 3	65⅜	Do. 5	+⅛	65⅜
4 3	65⅜	Do. 5	+⅛	65⅜
4 4	99	Do. 4½ p.c. 1871		100⅛
4 4	99	Do. Defence 3½		100⅛
10 2	35⅜	Uruguay Con. 3½ p.c.		35⅜
7 10	36	Venezuela		37
		COLONIAL AND FOREIGN RAILWAYS.		
mk.	5⅞	Bayres & Rosario ...		6
5 0	90	Do. 1st Mtge.		100
mk.	61	Argentine Centl.		61
...	1⅜	Do. A. Deb. ...		1⅜
mk.	2	Do. East		3
6 19	7⅞	Canadian Pacific.	—⅛	69⅝
mk.	4⅜	Grand Trk. Ord.		6
mk.	4⅜	Do. 1st Pref. ...	—⅛	34⅛
mk.	24	Do. 2nd Pref. ...	—⅛	24
mk.	15	Do. 3rd Pref. ...		15
mk.	1⅜	Do. Guaranteed ...	+⅛	6⅝
mk.	15⅜	Mexican Ord. ...		15⅜
2 15	87⅜	Do. 1st Pref. ...		88
mk.	31⅜	Do. 2nd Pref. ...		31⅜
7 6	59⅜	Mexican Central.		57⅜
14 19	14⅜	Nitrate Railways.		14½
		AMERICAN RAILROADS.		
£ s.		*Shares.*		
...	21⅝	Atchison Shares.	—⅛	12⅛
15 15	21⅛	Cent. Pacific Sh...	—⅛	14⅜
5 6	61⅜	Chic. Mil. & St. P.	—⅛	60
mk.	11⅛	Denv. & R. Grand		10½
mk.	44⅜	Do. Pref. ...	—⅛	39⅝
mk.	16⅜	Erie	—⅛	14
mk.	35⅜	Do. Pref. ...		29
8 8	19¼	Illinois Central ...	—⅛	98
4 12	123	Lake Shore ...		130
mk.	14⅜	Louis and Nash. ...	—⅛	13⅜
mk.	15	Miss. & c. Texas	—⅛	13⅜
4 14	100⅛	N. Y. Central Sh.		102
mk.	15⅜	N. Y. Ontario ...	—⅛	16⅛
mk.	23⅜	Norfolk W. Pref.	—⅛	21⅜
mk.	21⅜	North Pacific Pf.	—⅛	21⅜
mk.	6⅛	Union Pacific Sh.	—⅛	7⅜
mk.	21⅜	Wabash Preferred	—⅛	14⅜
		Bonds.		
4 5	85	Atchison A	—¼	35
5 11	103⅝	Illinois 4 p.c. Gold		104
4 11	91⅛	Louisville 5 p.c. ...		103⅝
4 14	91⅛	Mex. San. Tex. 6s.		62
4 10	103⅜	N. Y. Cent. 4 p.c. G.		101
4 11	153⅜	N. Y. Erie 2nd ...		126⅝
4 18	76⅜	Do. 2nd Mort. ...	—¼	86⅝
17 9	91	N. Y., P. & O. 1st M.	—¼	79⅜
5 11	113⅜	Penns. 4½ Gold...		115
mk.	81⅜	Phil. & Read. 1st ...		31
mk.	26⅛	Wabash 5 p.c. Deb.	—⅛	24½
		TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE.		
5 13	47¼	Anglo-American ...	—⅛	43
5 11	12	Brazil Submarine ...		11⅞
5 11	12⅛	Direct Spanish ...		11⅞
4 7	15	Eastern		15
4 10	15⅛	Eastern Extension ...		15⅜
8 14	1⅝	Cape Copper		1⅞
...	4⅜	Cape Copper		4⅜
4 11	34⅛	Tel. Constrn. ...	+⅛	40
		MINING AND LAND.		
...	16⅜	Bechuanaland ...		20⅜
18 4	4⅜	Broken Hill Pr. ...	—⅛	5⅛
...	10⅜	Buttomeh N. E.		5⅜
...	2⅜	Barnat Ruby ...	—⅛	2⅜
8 14	1⅜	Caps Copper		1⅜
...	4⅜	Caledonia Quinsberg		4⅜
4 11	3⅜	Clar. S. Africa ...	+1⅛	20⅜
6 14	10⅜	City of Suburban.	+⅛	12¼
5 0	7⅛	Do. Cash, 5 p. Alot		9⅜
5 0	7¼	Crown Reef		9⅜
5 0	7⅛	De Beers		19⅜
14 0	2⅜	Don Pedro Gold...		1⅝
11 0	1⅜	Durban Roodp't		1⅝
47 0	12⅜	Elsburg		13⅜
...	4⅜	Exploring Co. ...	—⅛	4⅜
5 0	4⅜	Geldenhuis Deep		4⅜
5 0	5⅜	Gordon Diamond...		5⅜
6 0	6⅜	Henderson Land...		6⅜
61	2⅛	Jagersfontein ...	—⅛	2⅛
14	2⅛	Jubilee		2⅛
...	2⅜	Jumper's Gold ...		4
...	4	Kimberley Diamd.		4
...	1⅜	Ledgbaigte	+⅛	1⅜
10 0	1⅜	Lutpardo Vlei ...		10⅜
...	1⅜	Madeira and Gld		1⅜
4 9	1⅜	Mason and Barry ...	+⅛	2⅜
8	47⅛	Mash. Consolidated	+0⅜	10⅜
0 0	3⅜	Montana		3⅜
0	2⅛	Mozambique		2⅜
0	2⅜	Nam. Pat. Gold ...		2⅜
0	1⅜	Namaqua		1⅜
10 5	2⅛	Nundynyas		2⅜
0	2⅜	Oceana Land ...	+⅛	2⅜
10 3	2⅜	Orange Free	+⅛	2⅜
0	1⅜	Read's Drift		10⅜
4 17	14⅜	Rio Tinto	+⅛	14⅜
8 0	14⅜	Robinson		14⅜
0	1⅜	Silati River		3⅜
0	1⅜	Simmer and Jack		4⅜
11 1	10	S. A. Exploration ...	—⅛	11⅜
0 13	1⅜	Shaks	—0⅛	2⅛
6 1	4⅜	Tharsis		4⅜
0	7⅛	Transvaal Develp.	+0⅜	7⅜
1	10⅜	Do. Land		10⅜
0	4⅜	Wemmer		4⅜
0	1⅜	Wentworth	+⅛	1⅜
0	3⅜	Do. Ord. ...	+0⅛	7⅜
		MISCELLANEOUS.		
4 7	4⅞	Acrated Bread ...		7⅜
4 11	4⅞	Allsopp	+⅛	6⅜
5 0	9⅛	Do. Pref. ...		12⅜
0 13	4⅜	Bell's Asbestos ...		4⅜
0 0	1⅜	Bryant and May ...		4⅜
0 5	15	Costa Ord.		16⅛
0 5	15	Do. Preferred ...		14⅛
mk.	3⅜	Eastman's Ord. ...		3⅜
mk.	3⅜	Eastman's Sapper		3⅜
mk.	3⅜	Fraser & Chalmers		1⅜
6 4	13⅜	Gaiety Hotels ...		13⅜
4 7	350⅜	Guinness & Co. ...	+2	350⅜
mk.	2⅜	Hen. and s Meat ...		2⅜
mk.	4⅜	Hoffmann		4⅜
4 14	1⅜	Hudson's Bay ...		12⅜
0 0	1⅜	Imperial Cont. ...		1⅜
0 4	9⅛	Pears		9⅛
5 5	16⅛	Pt. & St. Steam Co.		10⅛
mk.	4⅜	Primitive Nitrate	+⅛	3⅞
11 1	12⅜	Salt Invest. Def.		10⅜
0	3⅜	St. Ives Brewery ...		2⅜
0	3⅜	Salt Union Shares		3⅜
mk.	4⅜	Salt Union	—⅛	3⅜
1	5	San Jorge		6⅜
1	5	San Paulo		6⅜
0	14⅜	S. Africa Gld. Trst.		1⅜
5 14	8⅜	Spratt's Patent ...		8⅜
1 5	10⅜	Tozer Canal	+⅛	10⅜
	4⅜	Trustees Exctors.	+⅛	7⅜

In the following table are given the latest official prices and the return to the investor, of some of the less active securities not included in our general statement above. The list it will be seen is composed chiefly of steady-going, prior charge issues, better known to investors than speculators.

Yield.	Price.	Yield.	Price.	Yield.	Price.
Canada, Corpns. &c.		*Indian Railways.*		*Water-works.*	
£ 2 10 Egypta. Gtd. ...	101⅛	£ s. Bombay & Bdg. Gtd.	114⅛	£ s. Chelsea Waterw.	87⅜
5 0 Land Bank ...	11⅞	4 7 Bom. Cen. Ind. Gtd.	114⅜	5 15 East London Wat.	153½
5 0 Landmortgage 4 p.c.	11⅞	4 10 Do. Pref. ...	104⅜	5 16 Lambeth	153½
5 12 Ontario 4 p.c. ...	74	4 3 Madras Ry. Gtd.	114⅜	5 16 New River New ...	87⅜
				5 16 Do. 3 p.c. Stk.	87⅜
3 1 Caledon. 4 p.c. ...	127	4 16 Sth. Mahratta Ista	71	5 14 Wolverhampton	87⅜
3 0 Do. 4 p.c. Pref. ...	1.3	4 7 Sth. Mahratta Gtd.	94	*Insurance.*	
3 0 Do. Cousos	1.3	6 3 Do. New Zealand	6⅛	9 0 Alliance Assur ...	93⅛
3 15 Nevada, 6 p.c. ...	1.3	6 3 Do. Ord. ...	4⅜	0 0 Do. Scrip	36
3 1 Do. 6 p.c. Pref. Pr.	1.3	4 12 Lloyds	105⅜	0 0 London & Manch.	36
3 1 Do. 6 p.c. Rockwood	1.3	4 10 London & County	105⅜	5 11 Sun Fire	99
3 19 Land Mtge. ...	107	4 10 London & West.	105⅜		
3 10 Do. Cons. 4 Pref.	132	4 12 London Joint Stk.	31⅛	*Miscellaneous.*	
3 17 Lond. & Can. 4 p.c.	125	4 8 National Prov. ...	31⅛	4 0 Mallaby & Marsh.	115
3 0 Do. Cons. 4 Pref.	135	4 15 Union of London	35	5 14 Bass 4 p.c. ...	124
3 11 Lond. & W. 3 Db.	105	5 9 Union Bk. of Aus	45	4 0 Fox & Gal. Debs.	105⅜
3 11 Do. Cons. 4 Pref.	135	*Gas Electric Light.*		5 15 Gen. Gt. Ins. Dr.	65⅞
3 0 Lon. Brtn. 4½ Db.	102	7 3 Gaslight Coke A	212⅛	5 16 Guinness 5 Deb.	127
3 4 Lon. Chat. Pur. Db.	145	7 3 Imperial Gas Db.	212⅛	5 8 Lamb. Soda Deb.	110
2 18 Midland 3 Deb. ...	106	4 16 Met. Electric ...	97⅛	4 7 London Gen. Om.	14⅛
3 1 Do. 4 Pref. ...	135	4 15 Do. 6 p.c. Stk.	97⅛	4 7 Maple & Co. ...	14⅛
3 0 N. Eastern 4 Deb.	135	5 S. Metropol. A ...	310⅛	4 0 Mtge. Debs. ...	101
3 1 Do. Pref.	135	4 16 Do. B ...	258⅛	4 6 N. Metro. Trams	13

THE VALUE OF AN AUDIT.

AN OUTSPOKEN ARRAIGNMENT OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—Since the able article in your newspaper of January 17 last, on the above very important subject, there have been published by you numerous letters giving all shades of opinion, and I venture to think the time has now arrived when we may form a deduction or judgment from the published letters.

None of the writers touches upon the all-powerful issue raised by you. What is the value of an audit as safeguarding the investing public, especially with respect to the assets represented in figures being a true statement as to values? We may now confidently affirm that for such a purpose the value of an audit is not worth the paper it is written on.

Various writers have criticized my suggestion of a Government audit and valuation, the chief objection, coming from accountants, being that it is not expedient to call in Government for such work; that, in fact, Government is not capable. My reply is: when Government is called upon to do real honest commercial work it has shown itself quite capable. The Post Office must be my full answer as to competency, and I think I may venture to assert that there is not an institution, private or public, so ably conducted as our Post Office. Moreover, there is as little red-tapeism displayed in its management as can possibly be, and its expedition and accuracy are actually marvellous.

Further, it is frankly suggested by me comes the power of the chartered accountants to consolidate themselves into a corporation for the purpose of auditing, so that shareholders could elect the corporation as the auditing body. No doubt this would be a wise step. The *Accountant* newspaper, as foreshadowed in your issue of the 24th ult., has published the correspondence from your newspaper, and the editor has inserted two very weak articles on the question. Evidently the paper courted the ventilation of the important issue. Not one letter has appeared, and the question is dropped. The fact is, the chartered accountants know their audit is an absolute failure, and the less said about it the better. But do they think by shirking investigation or suppressing publicity they are likely to stamp out inquiry? No, Sir, your article has spread too far and sunk too deeply for such a result to take place.

It must be remembered that accountants probably live more upon rotten institutions than upon healthy financial ventures. Why then should they move to remedy the present condition of things? They are quite content as things are. They say to Messrs. Swindler, Defaulter, and Co.: "Go on, and when things come to a crisis let the poor shareholders call us in to wind up. We can take care of ourselves. The shareholders must and do pay. It is most profitable work, and there is more of it the better for the accountant." But is it wise for the community to allow this condition of things to continue?

Surely not.

Why do not the chartered accountants concentrate their powers and form such an institution that the investing public can reliably employ it and feel confident in its full audit? Probably it is the individuals' petty jealousy which prevents any such combination. The firm A. B. and Co. think they can get more in the free fight for the plunder under the present conditions than they would obtain as part of a strong and reliable institution. It is a pity this is so; it is this want of cohesion amongst us which is doing so much mischief at the present time.

Let us consider how things are now managed. The public are always taken in detail, from the nature of things there cannot be any joint action. The rotten financier knows this full well. Here is an illustration of a common mode of procedure. A company is floated. A director, Mr. C., is going to perpetrate a fraud upon the community. He purchases a property or commodity, and pays for it at say £1,000. The transaction is not in his own name, but in the name of D. D. sells the property on the recommendation of C., who is on the board, for say £10,000. The profit is divided between C. and D. Proper vouchers are given. An auditor has been appointed at the instigation of the board, though a shareholder being put up to nominate him. This is generally the way. Proper vouchers having tendered to the auditor, they are inspected and passed, and a something is inserted in the balance-sheet to the asset side of the accounts, as valued at £10,000, when the intrinsic value in the market is only £1,000. All is in order, and then at the end of the financial year comes the certificate:—

We have examined the above balance-sheet with the books and vouchers of the company, and find the same in conformity therewith.

I am using the actual words of the first company balance sheet which comes to my hand. It is signed by a most respectable firm of accountants. What a farce the words make of the audit!

There is another important point to be dealt with. Continuing the transactions of the above company at the annual meeting the same firm of auditors are re-elected with a miserable remuneration of twenty guineas per annum. This is for a large company. Nominal capital £1,000,000, shares £10, of which £2 is paid. The liabilities are £300,000 odd, including reserve fund, and of course there is a similar, but somewhat larger amount represented as assets. The revenue is £50,000 odd. Now, I ask, what can a firm of accountants do to safeguard the investing public's interests with twenty guineas? To believe that they can afford to give adequate audit, such as will safeguard the proprietors, for such a sum is simply impossible. The audit is a farce. It is worse than useless—it is terribly misleading. Let us do away with such absolute rottenness. But how to do it is the question.

Practically there is no adverse to applying to Government as any one can be, but after mature thought and years of observation I am of opinion that such audit and valuation can only be efficiently done by such a central authority.

Let the chartered accountants effect the remedy if they can, by consolidating themselves so that the investing public, instead of taking the lead from the directors, can have a body which shareholders can independently and confidently elect. This will be an improvement upon the present condition of things.

The *Accountant* newspaper in its issue of February 3 states that in the event of Government electing to do this important work of auditing and valuing, the auditors would have to be drawn or recruited from the ranks of the chartered accountants. Yes, this must be so; but then the *Accountant* adds:—

The rank and file of Government officials are not, and are not expected to be, anything else than intelligent machines; and it is in the highest degree probable that, from whatever source official auditors were in the first instance obtained, they would soon acquire the ideas and manners of other officials, and altogether cease to exercise that vigilant and intelligent discretion without which no effective audit can possibly be made.

This is a doubtful compliment to Government officials, and a still more doubtful compliment to chartered accountants. But when these observations are considered in face of the form of the certificate quoted above, I must frankly confess I fail to see the point.—Yours truly,

Glenlee, Thurlow Park-road, FREDERICK HOVENDEN.
West Dulwich, S.E., Feb. 13.

The premium on gold at Buenos Ayres has fallen one point, to 257 p.c.

Wheat is now at the lowest price ever touched—24s. 5d. per quarter. There is no probability that the market may soon be asked for a million and half sterling for the purposes of the Waterloo and City Railway.

Persia, like India, has now, it appears, determined to stem the flood of silver pouring in upon her. It is announced that she will no longer coin silver for the public, and that, in fact, the import of silver is prohibited.

The directors of the United Asbestos Company (Limited) will recommend to the shareholders the payment of the following dividends for the past year:—10 per cent. on the £10 preference shares; £6 per cent. on the £5 preference shares; 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, carrying forward a balance equal to 5¾ per cent. on the ordinary shares.

The report of the Natal Land and Colonization Company (Limited) for 1893 states that during the year 4,369 acres of land have been sold. Exclusive of one of the properties, in extent 238 acres, which has buildings upon it, the average price per acre realized is £1 15s. 3d., as compared with 7,230 acres sold in 1892 at an average of £1 1s. 7d. per acre. This increase in prosperity that the market may soon be asked for a million and half sterling for the purposes of the Waterloo and City Railway.

Persia, like India, has now,

NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION

ESTD. 1835.

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ACCUMULATED FUND £4,700,000. CLAIMS PAID EXCEED £9,000,000.

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THE SPEAKER

FOR THIS WEEK, PRICE 6d., CONTAINS:

MR. GLADSTONE'S RESIGNATION.—MR. MORLEY AT CORK.—MR. GOLDWIN SMITH ON THE SITUATION.—THE UNIFICATION OF LONDON.—THIS MORNING'S PAPER (BY "A MERE OUTSIDER").—THE REPLY OF THE DAUGHTERS.—THE BRITISH MUSEUM CASE.—FRENCH LITERATURE.—AN INVESTOR'S VADE-MECUM.—MR. STEER'S EXHIBITION. BY G. M.—THE DRAMA. BY A. B. W.—BANDEROLE'S ÆSTHETIC BILL. BY JOHN DAVIDSON.—A LITERARY CAUSERIE (ON THE POPULAR CONCEPTION OF A POET). BY A. T. Q. C.—REVIEWS OF BOOKS, &c., &c.

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See TO-MORROW'S ISSUE and read "T. P." on

MR. GLADSTONE'S FAREWELL!

BOOK of the WEEK, "Coleridge's Life and Letters."

ALL SATURDAY'S NEWS.

THE WEEKLY SUN 1D.

OF ALL NEWSAGENTS.

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NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.—The Editor of the PALL MALL GAZETTE *does not in any case hold himself responsible for the return of rejected contributions. He is, however, always glad to consider MSS. and sketches: and, where stamps are enclosed and the name and address are written on the manuscript, every effort will be made to return rejected contributions promptly. To ensure this it is absolutely necessary that the name and address of the contributor should be written on the manuscript itself. The sending of a proof is no guarantee of the acceptance of the article.*

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Miss ADA REHAN as VIOLA.
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VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.—Lessees, A. and S. GATTI.—Under the Management of Mr. E. CURTICE.—TO-NIGHT, at 8.20, a New and Original Comic Opera, entitled
WAPPING OLD STAIRS.
By STUART ROBERTSON and HOWARD TALBOT. Music by Ernest Ford. Richard Temple, Avon Saxon, H. Spalding, H. Bouchier; Mesdames Mary Turner, Mary Hutton, Hannah Jones, and (by permission of the "Monaco Bound" Company) Winifred Mae. Entire Bond will appear. Preceded, at 7.45, by WET PAINT. Mr. H. Sparling, &c. Doors open at 7.30. Box-office 10 to 6, and at all Libraries. MATINEE TO-DAY, at 2.30.

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A DINNER in AID of the FUNDS of this Hospital WILL BE HELD on SATURDAY, May 5, at the HOTEL METROPOLE, when His Royal Highness the DUKE of YORK, K.G., will take the chair.

A SPECIAL and URGENT APPEAL is now made for £12,150, the amount owing by this Hospital.

£2,800 of this sum was borrowed in 1893 to meet the Christmas bills. £9,350 is the debt on the Building Fund.

One hundred Donors or Collectors of £100 each would prevent the sad necessity of closing the wards to the Sick Children.

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Arthur Lucas, Esq.	500	0 0	H. D.
A Friend	100	0 0	Charles Linde, Esq.
	100	0 0	

All who love and pity the Sick Children are urged to add their names to this Special List. Collecting Lists will be supplied on application. More Stewards are urgently required Gentlemen willing to act are begged to send in their names at once. Collections, however small, will be gratefully received.

ADRIAN HOPE, Secretary.

WEATHER FORECAST ISSUED AT 11 A.M. TO-DAY.

South England (with London and Channel).—Southerly and south-westerly winds, moderate; fine at first, cloudy later, probably some rain.

Readings by Messrs. NEGRETTI and ZAMBRA's Instruments.

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FOURTH EDITION.

THE KILLING OF LOBENGULA'S INDUNAS,

LORD RIPON EXONERATES THE TROOPERS.

A parliamentary paper published to-day contains a copy of the correspondence which has passed between the Colonial Office and Sir Henry Loch regarding the killing of two of Lobengula's indunas and two native post-runners at Tati. Lord Ripon, in a final letter to Sir Henry, says: "As regards the case of the indunas, their death appears to have been the result of a series of deplorable misunderstandings. It is deeply to be regretted that on their arrival at Tati Mr. Dawson (the trader), who accompanied them, did not immediately inform either Colonel Goold-Adams or Mr. Selous (by the latter of whom he was taken aside and questioned) of the nature of the mission of the indunas, and also that upon being questioned the indunas themselves should have refrained from giving any intelligent indication of their position as envoys. As I gather that Colonel Goold-Adams was not aware that a letter to Lobengula had been written, which caused the envoys from him to appear on the road by which he (Colonel Adams) was advancing, there seems to me to have been nothing in the circumstances which should have led that officer to anticipate the arrival of natives bearing a message from Lobengula to the High Commissioner. This being so military considerations clearly

JUSTIFIED HIM IN ORDERING THEIR DETENTION,

pending further inquiry, which inquiry was from that moment necessarily postponed, owing to the temporary absence of Mr. Dawson. As to the personal interview which he had with the indunas, Colonel Adams appears to have taken great pains to direct the interpreter to impress on them that they had nothing to fear so long as they made no attempt to escape. Whether their subsequent endeavour to escape was the result of apprehension for their personal safety, or whether one or more of them had conceived the idea of returning to warn their chief of the advance of a white force, cannot now be ascertained. As regards the post-runners, the military necessities of his position justified Colonel Adams in ordering their detention and these men appear to have directly drawn their fate upon themselves by attempting to escape after due warning of the consequences. Neither in that case nor in the case of the indunas can blame be attached to the troopers. Apart from any question of self defence they would have been wanting in their duty had they failed to carry out the express orders given to them to prevent the escape of the men entrusted to their care. While, therefore, deeply lamenting these occurrences I concur in the conclusions at which you and Major Sawyer have arrived, and I have to request that you will thank him for the trouble he has taken in the matter."

THE HOSTILITIES ON THE GAMBIA.

DEPARTURE OF REINFORCEMENTS.

PORTSMOUTH, Saturday.—Volunteers from the gunnery branch of the Portsmouth Naval Barracks left this morning with a dozen Maxim guns for Plymouth, *en route* for the scene of action on the West Coast of Africa. The men and guns will join the draft of seamen and marines who sail on Sunday from Plymouth in the *Pembroke Castle* for Bathurst, together with a new crew for her Majesty's ship *Blanche*.—*Reuter.*

THE AMUSING BREACH OF PROMISE CASE.

LADY BARBER AND BARRISTER.

Mr. Arthur W. J. Wicks, the reputed barrister, who is being sued by the lady barber, Miss Lottie Chettle, for damages for breach of promise, went into the witness-box to-day to resist the claim. He is a youthful-looking man, of that hatchet cast of countenance which reading for the bar appears to induce so frequently. As one might have anticipated from his versifying inclinations, he wears a lay-down collar; his hair was cut closely in readiness for the forensic wig; but there was one somewhat surprising circumstance about his face. He still wears his lip and chin clean shaven, although it was that very practice which plunged him into the midst of this present trouble by taking him to the shaving saloon, where he first came into contact with Miss Chettle. Had he adopted Nazarene tenets, and come into court with his hair on his shoulders and an ill-kempt beard sweeping his unfortunate breast, one could have understood the promptings which had led him to forswear barbers. But even this very morning the razor had been run over his face. He was pale and hollow-cheeked, and evidently did not underestimate

THE UNPLEASANTNESS OF HIS SITUATION.

His own counsel had described his conduct as absolutely wrong and abhorrent to right-minded people. He was doubtless curious, with a sickly curiosity, what the counsel on the other side would say to him. Taken over the course as gently as Mr. Rawlinson could do it, he said he used to be a company secretary, but now he was without occupation. His means were only £40 a year. He had formerly had a reversionary interest of £2,500, but that had been anticipated and swallowed up entirely by mortgages. He first met Miss Chettle on May 21 last.

You were shaved in the ordinary way?—Yes. After that, two days later, he took her out to the Tivoli and to Gatti's. Then he drove her home, and took her out frequently. Eventually he told her he had been a married man, but that his wife had committed an act of bigamy in marrying him, and he had married her a second time. He told plaintiff that he was not agreeing very well with his wife, and if Miss Chettle said he said his wife was an infernal woman, he was not prepared to deny it. He said he hoped to get separated from his wife, and plaintiff agreed to live with him as his wife at hotels until they could be married. The plaintiff must have known he was married when she first stayed with him at his house at Hampstead.

AILING AND CONVALESCENT.

M. CLEMENCEAU.—Suffering from a liver attack.
SEÑOR SAGASTA.—Rapidly recovering from his gastric attack.
MR. VILLIERS, M.P.—Is much better.
M. BARTHÉLEMY ST. HILAIRE.—Very ill.
M. DE GIERS.—Health much improved.
DR. VAUGHAN.—In a very weak condition.
LORD HANNEN.—Was a little weaker yesterday; condition causing anxiety.

The Archduchess Stephanie of Austria left Trieste yesterday for Cairo. She intends to ascend the Nile as far as the Second Cataract. It is expected that she will make a stay of about two months in the East.—*Dalziel.*

MR. GLADSTONE'S RESIGNATION.

GRAVE CRISIS IN THE GLADSTONIAN PARTY.

THE PRIME MINISTER AT WINDSOR.

HIS SUCCESSOR SUMMONED BY THE QUEEN.

VOICES FROM THE CAVE.

"SOME EMOTIONS AND A MORAL."

A grave crisis in the affairs of the Gladstonian party will be inaugurated this afternoon, when the Prime Minister yields up his seals of office to the Sovereign. It is not alone that a large section of the new Radical party entertain a strong objection to a peer as a successor to Mr. Gladstone, but there is a feeling of soreness among members both above and below the gangway at the cavalier way in which the Prime Minister has treated his colleagues in this matter of his resignation. This found expression yesterday in a variety of ways, and wherever the members of any section of the Gladstonian party met yesterday there was the same exhibition of resentment at the secretiveness and self-continence of their leader in withholding from his party any intimation of his intention to retire from office. In common courtesy and common fairness to his supporters, it was declared, he should, before taking so decisive a step, have called the party together and favoured them with his reasons for giving up the leadership at this critical time. This feeling, and the question separately raised by Mr. Labouchere's letter, combined to place Gladstonians of every shade—English, Scottish, Irish, and Welsh—in a very bitter frame of mind yesterday, as they awoke to the fact that their leader had deserted them.

TALK AT THE POLITICAL CLUBS.

Last night the political clubs were crowded, and the situation was canvassed from every point of view. The greatest interest was, of course, centred in those places frequented by Gladstonian members, where the topic of discussion was the double grievance indicated above. Mr. Labouchere's letter was welcomed with enthusiasm by many Radicals who sit below the gangway and some of those who sit above it. Its publication and the favour it received have revealed the existence of a spirit hostile to Lord Rosebery far wider and deeper than had been suspected. Stimulated by the feeling of soreness above described, this hostility is bound to have a marked effect on the future existence or annihilation of the Gladstonian party. The suggestion that Lord Rosebery will not be acceptable to the Radicals naturally gave rise to the discussion of alternatives, and it is not a little remarkable that opinion was not altogether in favour of Sir William Harcourt. There was a strong feeling expressed that Sir William is not Radical enough for the stalwarts, and that Mr. Campbell-Bannerman would be far and away a better Prime Minister. The orthodox Liberals, of course, supported the cause of Sir William Harcourt, but, to judge from the opinions most frequently met with, there was quite as strong a following for Mr. Campbell-Bannerman. Lord Spencer and Lord Kimberley were scarcely mentioned. At the Unionist clubs there was not less excitement and eagerness in discussing the situation, but as the whole point of interest centres in the action of the Radicals, the Unionists have become simply spectators of the game. The probabilities of an early dissolution were discussed, and the opinion was widespread that the general election would not be delayed later than June.

THE MOVEMENTS OF MR. GLADSTONE.

Mr. Gladstone, accompanied by Mrs. Gladstone, left Paddington by the five minutes past five o'clock express train yesterday afternoon for Windsor, on a visit to the Queen. Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone, on alighting from the compartment which had been reserved for their accommodation, were heartily cheered. They entered one of the carriages which were in waiting, and proceeded to the Castle. Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone dined with the Queen, and remained at the Castle for the night. Mr. Gladstone will formally tender his resignation to the Queen to-day, after the Privy Council, and it is expected that Lord Rosebery will be finally sent for on Monday. It is not known whether an official statement will be made from the Treasury bench on that day, when the House meets for the prorogation, but questions will probably be put to the Government on the subject of the intended changes. From telegrams received last evening from Windsor, the Press Association is enabled to state that Mr. Gladstone explained more fully to her Majesty the reasons for his retirement, which, in the circumstances, her Majesty reluctantly accepted. It will be necessary for Mr. Gladstone to await the meeting of the Privy Council to-day before delivering up his seal of office as Lord Privy Seal. It is understood that, as on previous occasions, the Queen has more than once offered to raise Mr. Gladstone to the peerage, an honour which he has, however, courteously declined. He has recommended to the Queen that Lord Rosebery should be sent for, and there is no doubt the noble lord will this afternoon receive her Majesty's command to attend at the Castle. It is understood that Mr. Gladstone, while resigning office, proposes to retain his seat in Parliament. He will probably not take an active part in future in ordinary political controversy, but the Irish members look to his aid in keeping the Home Rule question to the front, and in helping the Home Rule Bill forward, if it should again come before Parliament. Nothing will be definitely known for two or three days in regard to the rearrangement of offices which will follow Mr. Gladstone's retirement. It is regarded, however, in well-informed quarters as tolerably certain that Lord Kimberley will go to the Foreign Office, and that Mr. Morley will take his place at the India Office. Lord Rosebery arrived at Berkeley-square this morning from the Durdans. The Ministers left London for Windsor to attend the Privy Council this afternoon.

STRANGE DISCOVERY BY THE "DAILY NEWS."

Under the heading of "By One of our Staff" the *Daily News* says:—"Mr. Gladstone certainly went down to Windsor yesterday, and he remains there till this morning. This is almost the only absolutely reliable item of information in the numerous bits of political gossip which were freely circulating in London last night. The quidnuncs are evidently too premature. So far as I can gather from my own inquiries they are well ahead of actual facts. Some of their speculations may turn out to be justified by the event, but these speculations are tainted with the vice of prophecy without knowledge." The *Daily Chronicle*, determined to have something original on its own account, mentions that "a couple of first-class tickets were taken for the distinguished passengers."

HOW THE "PALL MALL" PREVENTED A DRAMATIC COUP.

"It is understood that as soon as the Queen, at the Privy Council to-day, has signified her approval of the message announcing the prorogation of Parliament Mr. Gladstone will formally notify his desire to resign the Premiership. That the right hon. gentleman's determination to retire is final and irrevocable is now an established fact," says the Lobby correspondent of the *Times*. "In his audience of her Majesty on Wednesday he explained the reasons which, in his opinion, precluded his continuance at the head of affairs; and what remains to be done, therefore, is, so far as he is concerned, cut and dried beforehand. Before going to Biarritz, however, he made it clear that he would retain office until the work of the session was completed, and this pledge would not be fulfilled if he left to his successor the task of suggesting the phraseology of the prorogation speech. Inasmuch as every precaution was taken to keep the public in the dark as to Mr. Gladstone's intentions, it is obvious that a dramatic coup was contemplated. The frustration of this plan through the indiscretion of one of those in the secret is said to have caused the right hon. gentleman great annoyance, but having mapped out his course of procedure, no amount of persuasion would have induced him to depart from it."

AN OBJECT-LESSON IN JOURNALISM.

To-day witnesses the realization of our announcement of January 31, and some record of the strange eventful history of the past month is consequently desirable, as it affords a valuable object-lesson in journalism. We need scarce recall the Prime Minister's official statement, because, as we pointed out at the time, it was merely the "No" that means "Yes;" nor Lord Rosebery's clever evasion, since his escape from something of a dilemma under cover of "the portentous type" was a credit to his diplomatic training; nor to the denunciation of M.P.'s throughout the country, for the honourable gentlemen, being mainly Gladstonians, were bound to adopt the parrot-cry furnished for their use. It must be noted, however, that

THE "PALL MALL'S" ORIGINAL ANNOUNCEMENT

elicited from journals throughout the kingdom nothing more intelligent than remarks of this sort:—

The *Times* contrasted a reference in our leader to "reputed fact" with the "Impending Resignation" announcement; alluded to the "devices by which a good many modern newspapers strive to get customers and to make themselves talked of;" quizzed us upon the "heaviest and largest type" employed in making the announcement; and finally referred to the special circumstances which lent it "apparent verisimilitude."

The *Daily Chronicle* prated of "cheap sensation" and "catchpenny newsmaking." Since we declined to accept the assurances of our contemporaries that we had been hoaxed, the *Chronicle* described our behaviour as "most improper," accused us of calling Mr. Gladstone "a perverter of the truth," and of having been guilty of impertinence.

The *Daily News* headed its leader "A Silly Hoax," and garnished it with such efforts at phrase-making as "not the shadow of a shade of foundation," "this ridiculous rumour," "this contemptible invention in cause and effect," "this idle tale," and "a gross indiscretion."

The *St. James's Gazette* headed its article "Shams and Frauds," and after the inevitable use of the word "canard" and a pleasant reference to "a case of false profession," proceeded: "As far as the substance of the 'hoax' (let us call it a hoax), which amused London yesterday, there is not much to be said on it. Most people must have seen through it even before Mr. Gladstone's highly Gladstonian denial. In point of fact both the inventive journalist and Sir Algernon West only re-state in their own several ways facts which have been common property for some time past."

The *Westminster Gazette* boldly started with the headline "Untrue," and followed on with denunciation of the "audacious announcement," "the foolish story," the "canard sauvage," and wound up with the assertion that it contained "not a syllable of truth."

The very effusion of abuse in various other London journals, especially evening newspapers, renders adequate quotation impossible.

Of the weekly journals, the *Saturday Review* remarked: "We can hardly suppose that anybody with the slightest political judgment believed in the existence of the specifically designated fire to which the smoke was attributed in the columns" of the *Pall Mall*. The *Speaker*, even last Saturday, condemned the bad taste of our "impertinent fables," which were "mean and discreditable," and "cowardly," and declared that the Prime Minister was "not the man to be driven from his post by the invention of paragraph writers."

The provincial press may be held to be represented by the *Manchester Courier*, which declared that "the sensational rumour," which "smacked too much of the obvious canard to be credible," was "already discredited;" and the *Birmingham Daily Gazette*, which remarked that, "if the *Pall Mall* has found a mare's-nest, it has, at least, created a *bonâ-fide* sensation."

In like manner the Irish journals may be taken as voiced by the *Freeman's Journal*, which expressed the opinion that "it did not need the official contradiction to dispose of the cruel and cowardly canard of the *Pall Mall Gazette*." It is only fair to the Parnellite and Conservative newspapers on the other side of the Channel to note that their tone was less violent, and that, while discrediting the report in the form in which it appeared, they admitted there might be something behind it.

Despite the virulence of the attack directed against us from the various quarters thus indicated,

FULL AND HONOURABLE AMENDS

are made only by the *Times*, *Star*, and *Evening News and Post*, and the *Financial News*, which would seem to show that honesty is rather at a discount in journalism. Certain exceptions require to be mentioned. The *National Observer*, which the Radical press, with its wonted accuracy, describes as the weekly edition of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and *Vanity Fair* alone among British journals perceived the truth of our statement. One newspaper declared that it knew about the impending resignation all along, though apparently it did not think of mentioning the circumstance until our announcement had been published. And another, which began by discrediting the statement, though it subsequently "electrified the country"—the modest phrase is its own—by repeating it the other day, claims equal credit with ourselves in the matter.

Papers whose withers are unwrung, please copy!

LAST NIGHT'S SPEAKERS ON THE RESIGNATION.

Sir E. Clarke, M.P., replying to the toast of the Houses of Parliament, last night at the Horners' Company referred to the "passing away from the House of Commons of its greatest, most experienced and most dignified member." Mr. D. Plunkett, M.P., speaking at Wimbledon, said that though it would be affectation on his part to pretend to deplore the disappearance of Mr. Gladstone from office, yet he could not forget his magnificent eloquence and indomitable energy. Sir A. K. Rollit, M.P., at Islington, said that now when physical infirmities were calling upon the grand old statesman to retire they would not be disposed to be critical; but, on the contrary, would be grateful for public services rendered.

TO-DAY'S OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

The *Times* says that to-day for the fourth and last time Mr. Gladstone will resign into the Queen's hands the high office of Prime Minister. The disappearance from active political life of so striking a figure is, in some sense, a turning-point in the history of the United Kingdom. However far he has drifted from the convictions of his early manhood, when he entered Parliament as a "stern and unbending Tory," he has always been the "watchful guardian of the dignity and authority of the House," which "will sadly miss his restraining influence, more than ever required when manners are degenerating, and respect for constituted authorities is regarded by many as a mark of weakness."

The *Standard*, after pointing out that Mr. Gladstone's leave-taking will appeal to general sympathy, says that the best-disposed observer, however, cannot fail to detect a jarring element in the midst of the pathos, and deals with the lack of dignity and grace in the arrangements for the close of Mr. Gladstone's career as the leader of a great English party.

Referring to Mr. Labouchere's manifesto, the *Daily Chronicle* remarks: "As for Mr. Labouchere, we only do justice to his great energy and ingenuity when we say that as he began this Parliament so he proposes to end it. He early commenced the work of smashing the Liberal party; he showered on Mr. Gladstone the abuse which he now reserves for Lord Rosebery; and in the process he has, we venture to say, alienated the confidence of every man who has a steady conception of what Liberalism can be made to mean. There is much that is irrelevant, nothing that is strong, in his letter. And there is one statement so gross that we cannot pass it over. Mr. Labouchere declares that the disapproval of Sir William Harcourt comes from the Unionist and Tory press. Is he not aware of the fact that the approval of Lord Rosebery emanates from nearly all the important organs of the party to which he is doing so eminent a disservice? The journal then deals with Lord Rosebery's claims to the Premiership."

The *Daily News*, also dealing with the same subject, criticises strongly Mr. Labouchere's letter to Mr. Marjoribanks, and contests his assertion that the Queen's "constitutional right to select her own Prime Minister" is "more true in theory than in fact."

The *Financial News* says:—"It seems that the *Pall Mall Gazette* was right, after all—or, rather, before all. Mr. Gladstone is going to resign, and, according to the *Times*, 'before leaving this country for Biarritz, he made known to two or three intimate friends his intention to resign at the close of the session.' That it is substantially what the *Pall Mall* said more than a month ago, and as I joined in the general condemnation of the *Pall Mall* when its statement was contradicted, it is but fair that I should now make the *amende*."

The provincial journals all discuss the question without any acknowledgement of the *Pall Mall's* exclusive information.

The *Freeman's Journal* says:—"To Irishmen Mr. Gladstone's retirement from the chief place in the British Empire is a matter of the most profound regret. Looking back now over his great career we see in spite of grave mistakes, for which the time rather than himself was responsible, how profound has been his sympathy with Ireland's wrongs."

The *Independent* repeats that Mr. Gladstone's resignation is the result of a cabal, the object of which is to obtain a free hand in throwing over Home Rule, and it stigmatizes Mr. Gladstone's retirement as an act of treachery to Ireland.

RATHER A SPORTING VIEW.

The *Manchester Courier* takes rather a sporting view of the situation, its "paddock snip" being in favour of Kimberley, with Harcourt for a place. Its latest betting is as follows:—

7	to	4	agst	Rosebery, taken freely	33	to	1 agst Acland o, 40 to 1 w
4	—	1	—	Kimberley	40	—	1 — Fowler
5	—	1	—	Spencer	40	—	1 — A. Morley
100	—	12	—	Harcourt	66	—	1 — Dilke
20	—	1	—	Campbell-Bannerman	100	—	1 — J. Morley
25	—	1	—	Asquith	100	—	1 — Ripon
33	—	1	—	Herschell	1000	—	1 — Labouchere, no takers

THE WEEKLY JOURNALS ON THE SITUATION.

The *National Observer*, referring to Mr. Gladstone's speech on Thursday, says:—"Having thus vindicated himself, and delivered yet another assault upon the ancient Constitution he has ever worked so hard to bring into contempt, he went into the Lobby, and voted as it were against himself. And in a very few hours the *Pall Mall Gazette*, following up that 'disgraceful fabrication' (so one journal called it) of a month ago, was able to announce, in a special edition, that his resignation was practically accomplished; that it will be tendered to her Majesty to-day, and that on Monday Lord Rosebery will be sent for and asked to reign in his stead. The news surprises nobody, for, as we said last week, what else was left him to do? But it is none the less momentous for that; for the truth is, its confirmation means that, as a party, the Gladstonians have ceased to exist, and that the course of English politics is changed."

"Even with Lord Rosebery, and Sir William Harcourt as his lieutenant in the Lower House," the *Spectator* remarks, "the House of Commons without Mr. Gladstone will be a very different House indeed from what it is at the present moment. In the first place, it will command very much less confidence in the country. Mr. Gladstone's retirement will be the signal for the retirement or apathy of a great many cooling Liberals who were Gladstonians only, and hardly anything else. It will be remembered that Mr. Gladstone had his doubts about the Eight Hours Bill; that he did not give the signal for the attack on the Lords till the very last moment, and even then with almost bated breath; that he was very languid about disendowing the Welsh Church; that he was always favourable to denominational schools; and that the new leaders take a different line on these subjects with which his will be contrasted. There can be no doubt at all that a great deal of leeway will have to be made up by any Prime Minister who, after Mr. Gladstone retires, takes his place. In the next place, no Minister, not Lord Rosebery nor any other, can wield the same influence, or anything like the same influence, in the Cabinet. In the third place, neither Lord Rosebery nor any other will have Mr. Gladstone's chance of overcoming either Welsh obstinacy, or Irish suspicion, or Labour fanaticism, in the House of Commons. We do not believe that any successor to Mr. Gladstone can possibly survive these difficulties without an almost immediate dissolution."

"The clear indications of the time prove," observes the *Speaker*, "that a majority of Liberals, not only in Parliament but throughout the country, look upon Lord Rosebery as the fittest successor to Mr. Gladstone. There is, however, a section of Radicals who urge one strong objection against him. That is the fact of his being a peer. It is difficult to believe that this objection will be sustained when its meaning has really been grasped. If a man, suitable in every other respect for a position of grave responsibility, were to be declared ineligible by the Liberal party simply because he happened to be a peer, our enemies might with justice gird at us for having adopted the practice of the narrowest reactionary clique. To regard possession of a peerage as a positive disqualification for public life would be as absurd and unjust as to go to the other extreme, and insist, as some Tories do, that none but peers are fit to be Prime Ministers. Whoever may be chosen as Mr. Gladstone's successor, he must be chosen because of his personal fitness for that great heritage, regardless of whether, by the accident of birth, he is peer or commoner."

Black and White points out that "when the *Pall Mall Gazette* published its sensational report anent Mr. Gladstone, it required all the courage of that courageous journal to maintain its position before the storm which fell on it. Our contemporary has not waited long for its justification. As we go to press the leading topic in all the newspapers is the Premier's possible retirement, and the conviction is almost universal that his withdrawal may come at any moment. There seems something irreverent in the eagerness with which the question of his successor is being discussed, and this indecent haste of over-zealous partisans will not tend to allay the inevitable jealousy in rival camps which must follow the veteran's resignation. So far Lord Rosebery is the favourite, but he will be stoutly opposed by Mr. Labouchere and his not inconsiderable following."

Vanity Fair mentions that "when a month ago the *Pall Mall Gazette* printed its 'clumsy,' 'stupid,' 'false,' 'ridiculous,' 'cowardly' charge against the Prime Minister, making him out to be a 'poltroon and a traitor,' who would desert his sinking ship, we were alone, so far as we know, among London journals in not poking fun or hard words at the big-printed paragraph. The clumsy, stupid attempts of other journals, Radical and Tory, to resist the news have left them all well hoist. 'Twas natural enough. Radical journals had, it would seem, come to believe that the green old age of their Prime Minister was immortality. They wished him not to resign, and therefore said that his resignation was impossible. Tory journals had reasons of another kind; for they love the *Pall Mall* with an exceeding love that is born of success (in another). And yet within the month the most Radical of the *Pall Mall's* revilers have found out that Mr. Gladstone does contemplate resignation, and in some cases have even gone so far as to shout at him, 'Resign, resign!' as though the *Pall Mall Gazette* had never been, but they had discovered the crisis for themselves. It is very pretty, and very—we are sorry to say—characteristic of English journalism, which trades upon the short memory of the public and believes in more or less unscrupulous competition; but it is also—which is the *Pall Mall's* comfort—quite justificative of the 'clumsy amateurs' who invented the 'falsehood.'"

POWERS DEMANDED BY SIGNOR CRISPI.

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE PRESENT YEAR.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

The bill demanding absolute powers for the Italian Ministry for a limited space of time, which was presented recently to the House of Parliament by the President of the King's Council, contains three important clauses which specify the nature of the full powers which Signor Crispi considers necessary, in order to reform the administration and simplify the political organization of the State. They explain besides the political aim of the Crispi Cabinet, and the work they propose to accomplish, unaided by Parliament, during the remaining ten months of the year. The first article reads as follows:—

1. A diminution in the civil and military service; a reduction of the expenses by a reorganization of the offices of State, and a simplification in their functions. To accomplish this, the King, upon the responsibility of his Ministers, should be provided with full powers till the 31st of December, 1894.

2. The Government of the King, in order to proceed to the above-mentioned reforms, should be assisted by a commission composed of five senators, five deputies, and five functionaries of the State, named by Royal decree.

3. In January, 1895, at the opening of Parliament, the members of the Government of the King will render an account to the National Assembly of the manner in which they have made use of the full powers conferred upon them by the present law.

THE LESSON OF EXPERIENCE.

The ambiguous wording of this last clause has given rise to a good deal of uneasiness, and has been interpreted in the sense that the House of Parliament will remain closed till the 1st of January, 1895. What gave consistency to this opinion was a fierce *boutade* uttered by one of the Ministers in the corridors of Monte Citorio, who was heard to say: "There is no governing the country with such a Parliament." As things stand at present, it is considered unavoidable that the Italian Parliament should grant the extraordinary authority which the Cabinet demands. Experience of thirty years stands to prove that there is no making of radical or organic reforms through parliamentary means. The Italian deputies, who should have made them, have not been able to do so because the method imposes impracticable formalities, and they are obstacles of every kind to oppose their application in the widely differing provinces of the kingdom. For, in truth, the best intentions of deputies are often frustrated or paralyzed by the necessity of considering local interests, and many there are who find themselves in the false position of having either to compromise themselves in the eyes of their constituents or to sacrifice the vital interests of the country.

TRUST REPOSED IN BRAVE AND HONOURABLE MEN.

The Italians are conscious of the necessity of trusting their fate to those men whom they know to be brave and honourable. The names of Crispi, Blanc, and Sonnino are a guarantee in themselves, and they believe that absolute power should be put in the hands of a few who will not be afraid of acting energetically; who start with a definite purpose of making radical economical changes in the administration of the State; who, by doing away with superfluous offices and governmental functionaries, will free the country of the curse of bureaucratic tyranny, and, by diminishing the interposition of the Government in local affairs, will render automatic and vigorous the management thereof. Baron Sonnino, the Minister of Finances, while proposing an increase in the income-tax, in his exposition of the financial question, seems to have foreseen the hue and cry this measure would be met with in foreign countries that hold Italian State bonds, for after a clear and sober demonstration of the financial condition of the country, and the extent of her foreign obligations, he concludes in these words:—"To continue thus, increasing daily our debts in other countries, is no longer possible. Our political independence has cost us too many martyrdoms for us to sacrifice, by a slow process of servitude, the Italian State to the syndicates of foreign bankers and creditors." I expressed this opinion in my last correspondence on Italian finances to the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and I even went so far as to say that the statesman was not born in Italy who would have the courage to state the audacious fact. But I was mistaken; the man exists, and he is the Minister of Italian Finances, who has already shown us that he means to act up to his convictions.

SAD BOATING FATALITY AT OXFORD.

AN UNDERGRADUATE DROWNED.

Mr. Cuthbert Moore, an undergraduate of Exeter College, Oxford, son of a solicitor of Sheffield, was drowned yesterday afternoon while boating on the upper river. He went out shortly after twelve o'clock, in the company of Mr. C. A. Finzel and Mr. N. Poyntz, with the intention of going to Eynsham. At Medley Mr. Moore hired a Rob-Roy canoe, while his companions engaged a Canadian. The weather was delightfully fine, and each of them partook of luncheon in their boats. Mr. Finzel and Mr. Poyntz were a short distance in front, and as they approached the King's Weir they heard the lock-keeper shouting to them. At first they failed to understand what he said; but, on looking round, they noticed that Mr. Moore's canoe had capsized. They immediately returned to the spot, but he was nowhere to be seen, and at a late hour his body had not been recovered. A strong stream was running at the time, and the accident occurred in an awkward bend of the river. Mr. Moore was about nineteen years of age, and came from Uppingham School at the commencement of last October term.

THE VESTRY AND THE COSTERMONGERS.

THE APPEAL AGAIN DISMISSED.

Lords Justices Lindley, Kay, and A. L. Smith in the Appeal Court yesterday, gave judgment in the cases of Keep *v.* the Vestry of St. Mary, Newington, and Austin *v.* the same. This was an appeal by the vestry against the judgment of Mr. Justice Hawkins and Mr. Justice Lawrance, affirming the judgments in both actions on appeal from the Southwark county-court. At the latter court the respondents, who are costermongers, obtained damages for the seizure of their barrows by the officials of the vestry. The decision of the county-court judge was affirmed by Mr. Justice Hawkins and Mr. Justice Lawrance, and the vestry now appealed in order to have this decision reconsidered, and the question was whether the vestry could now exercise the powers conferred on them by Michael Angelo Taylor's Act, which Act it was contended had been impliedly repealed. Lord Justice Lindley, in giving judgment, said that so long as costermongers carried on their trade or business in conformity with the police regulation at the time in force, they were entitled so to do. As there was no evidence in the present case of their having violated the police regulations, the appeal must be dismissed without costs, but he could not part with the case without expressing his regret that the law should be in such a state of obscurity both as regards costermongers, &c., and vestries, and he trusted before long that Parliament would give it the attention it certainly deserved. Lords Justices Kay and Smith concurred.

WORKING MEN AND CORONERS' JURIES.

"IT IS A GREAT SHAME."

Mr. Langham was yesterday about to commence an inquest at the Collier's Rents Mission Hall, Southwark, when a working man who had been summoned, arrived some ten minutes late. Upon being reprimanded by the coroner, he said that he was employed at the Tower Bridge Works, and when he told his foreman where he had to go, he said he would have to lose half a day. I think it very hard, remarked the man; we ought to be paid. The coroner: There is a gentleman present from the London County Council; perhaps he can assist you. Another juryman: This is the first day's work I have obtained since Christmas, and I have had to lose it to come here. It is a great shame. The gentleman alluded to by the coroner (said to be a Mr. Ross) observed that they had better call the attention of their representatives on the Council to their grievances if they wished to obtain redress.

BECHSTEIN PIANOS.—CHAS. STILES and CO. offer these magnificent Pianos on the THREE YEARS SYSTEM at the same advantageous prices and terms. Apply for list to CHAS. STILES and CO., 40 and 42, Southampton-row, Holborn, W.C.

THEATRICAL ITEMS.

The last nights of "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray" will shortly be announced by Mr. George Alexander. It is his intention to get on at once with the rehearsals of the new play by Mr. Henry Arthur Jones, now in his possession. This, according to present calculations, will be produced very shortly after Easter.

Mr. George R. Sims is writing lyrics and arranging a series of dramatic tableaux illustrative of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which will be produced at the Moore and Burgess Minstrel entertainment at St. James's Hall. Mr. Clement Scott has already, at the request of the directors of the Alhambra, written a dramatic entertainment of verse and picture called "The New Victoria Cross," illustrative of deeds of heroism and adventure in civil life. The music for "Uncle Tom" will be written by Mr. Ivan Caryll, and that for Mr. Scott's sketch by Mr. Stephen Adams.

Mr. Arthur Branscombe's new musical comedy, in two acts, to be produced at Terry's Theatre on April 14, will be called "King Kodak." The music has been written by Messrs. Lionel Monckton, Milton Wellings, Walter Slaughter, and John Crook. Mr. Edward Terry, Miss Mabel Love, Miss Marie Montrose, Miss Julia Reeve, and Miss Kate Vaughan will be in the cast. Mr. Glendinning will paint the scenery.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree will preside at the annual general meeting of the members of the Actors' Association, to be held on the 20th inst., at the Haymarket Theatre.

Lady Greville's new comedy, "An Aristocratic Alliance," will be produced at the Criterion Theatre on Saturday, March 31. In addition to Mr. Charles Wyndham, Mr. Charles Groves, and Miss Mary Moore (who will make her reappearance in this play), the occasion will be marked by the re-introduction to the London stage of Miss Emily Fowler, who has been absent for many years, but has recently accepted an offer made to her by cable to China from Mr. Wyndham, and who is now on the way to England to attend rehearsals. The new piece is said to be founded on "Le Gendre de M. Poirier."

Mr. Malcolm Salaman has written a new three-act play, entitled "A Modern Eve." It will be produced at a Haymarket matinée early in May, with both Mr. and Mrs. Beerbohm Tree in the cast.

TO-DAY'S MATINEES.—Comedy, "Dick Sheridan," 2.30; Court, "The Transgressor," 2.30; Criterion, "The Headless Man," 3; Daly's, "Twelfth Night," 2; Drury Lane, "Robinson Crusoe," 1.30; Globe, "Charley's Aunt," 3; Haymarket, "The Charlatan," 2.30; Lyceum, "Cinderella," 1.30; Lyric, "Little Christopher Columbus," 2.30; Olympia, "Constantinople," 12; Prince of Wales's, "A Gaiety Girl," 2.30; Princess's, "The World," 2; Savoy, "Utopia (Limited)," 2.30; St. James's, "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray," 2.30; Terry's, "The New Boy," 3; Vaudeville, "Wapping Old Stairs," at 2.30; Wuffi's Circus, Equestrian performances, 2.30.

HEAVY CLAIM BY LONDON SHIPBROKERS.

DAMAGES ASSESSED AT OVER £40,000.

Lord Low gave judgment in the Court of Session, Edinburgh, yesterday, in an action in which James Dunn and Sons, shipowners and freight contractors, Glasgow, and Riddoch and Co., merchants and shipbrokers, of Great St. Helen's, London, sued the Anderston Foundry Company (Limited), Cheapside-street, Glasgow, for £65,000. In the beginning of 1890 the defenders, it was said, agreed to ship under contract with the pursuers about 130,000 tons of cast-iron sleepers from Middlesbrough to Boca, or Bahia Blanca, at 33s. 6d. per ton, the shipment to be at the rate of 1,000 tons per week. The pursuers averred that after 66,599 tons had been shipped, the defenders declined to carry out the contract, and the sum sued for was in respect of an alleged breach of it. The defenders maintained that the contract was subject to modification in the event of war or hostilities; that hostilities did break out in the Argentine Republic in the summer of 1890, and that in consequence the railway company to whom the sleepers were required were obliged to suspend operations. Lord Low found that the defendants had contracted to supply 125,000 tons of sleepers, and awarded the pursuers £40,285 as damages.

PECULIAR DEATH FROM LOCKJAW.

WOUNDED BY A RUSTY NAIL.

At the Paddington coroner's court yesterday, Dr. G. Danford Thomas held an inquest as to the death of William A. Hutchinson, a bricklayer's labourer. The evidence adduced went to show that three weeks ago, he was at work, when he ran a rusty nail into his toe. The wound was poulticed, and so far healed as to enable him to go about his duties the week following. Subsequently, he had a fit and violent spasms. A doctor was called in, and he ordered his removal to St. Mary's Hospital, where it was found he was suffering from lockjaw. He remained there up to the time of his death, which took place on Tuesday last. Dr. W. Broadbent said that when admitted the deceased was suffering from lockjaw, having a spasm every minute. These spasms continued until Tuesday, when he expired from tetanus or lockjaw, following the injury to the foot. The case was a singular one, from the fact that the lockjaw existed for the time it did, it usually being only of a week's duration. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

TO-MORROW'S LIST OF PREACHERS.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.—The Dean, 10.30; the Archdeacon of London, 3.15; the Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, 7.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—The Rev. H. Hensley Henson, 10; Canon Prothero, 3; Bishop Barry, 7.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St. James's.—The Bishop of Norwich, 12.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Savoy.—The Rev. T. E. Franklyn, 11.30; Canon Curteis, 7.

TEMPLE CHURCH.—Canon Ainger, 11; the Rev. W. T. Tait, 3.

LINCOLN'S INN CHAPEL.—The Rev. J. Ball, 11 and 7.

ST. MARGARET'S, Westminster.—Archdeacon Farrar, 11; the Rev. J. C. Elliot, 7.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, Clapham-rise.—The Rev. C. Robertson Honey, 11 and 7.

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH, Pont-street, Belgravia.—The Rev. Dr. Macleod, 11 and 7.

BEDFORD CHAPEL, Bloomsbury.—The Rev. Stopford Brooke, 11 and 7.

WESLEYAN WEST LONDON MISSION, St. James's Hall.—The Rev. Mark Guy Pearse, 11; the Rev. Hugh Price Hughes (Phœnix Demonstration), 3.30; and 7. Prince's Hall, Piccadilly.—The Rev. Mark Guy Pearse 7.

CHRIST CHURCH, Westminster Bridge-road.—The Rev. Dr. Newman Hall, 11 and 6.30; "P. S. A." (men only), 3.30.

WEST LONDON ETHICAL SOCIETY, Princes' Hall, Piccadilly.—Mr. Bernard Bosanquet, LL.D., on "Novel Reading," 11.15.

THEISTIC CHURCH, Swallow-street, Piccadilly.—The Rev. Ellison Annesley Voysey, 11 and 7.

ITALIAN CHURCH, Hatton Garden.—High Mass, 11.15 A.M.; Grand special service, 7.

PRO-CATHEDRAL, Kensington.—Rev. M. Fanning, 11; Rev. J. Bloomfield, 7.

THIS DAY'S WEATHER REPORTS.

At 8 A.M.—Newhaven, N.W., fine, some clouds, sea smooth, temp. 41; Brighton, W., fine but dull, sea smooth, 42; Portsmouth, N.W., fine, some clouds, sea calm, 39; Ryde, N.W., clear sky, sea calm, 42; Eastbourne, N.E., fine, sea smooth, bar. 30.3, rising, temp. 42; Hastings, N.W., clear sky, sea smooth, 44; Worthing, W., fine, but dull, 40.

At 9 A.M.—Cromer, S.W., fine, bar. 29.80 rising; Lowestoft, W., clear, bar. 30.2 rising; Harwich, fine; Ramsgate, N.W., bright; Dover, variable clear, sea smooth; Margate, bar. 30.20 steady, temp. 38, wind S.W., bright sunshine; Bournemouth, N.E., fine; Ilfracombe, S., fine; Southampton, N.E., foggy.

At 9.30 A.M.—Boulogne, clear and fine, temp. 40; Calais, clear sky, 46; Paris, fine, 40; Marseilles, fine morning, 48; Cannes, cloudy, 50; Nice, blue sky, warm sun, 52; Monte Carlo, sunny, 52; Brussels, fine, some clouds, 40; Ostend, overcast, 39; Rome, fine morning, 46; Algiers, lovely morning, 50; Folkstone, fine morning, 41; Baden-Baden, fine morning, 34; Queenborough, fine, some clouds, cold, fair passage, 46.

MONDAY'S MAILS AND SHIP LETTERS.

MAILS TO BE DESPATCHED.—Morning: Supplementary mails to Senegal, Rio Janeiro, Monte Video, and Buenos Ayres, by French packet; to Egypt by Italian packet. Evening: None.

MAILS DUE.—From West Coast of Africa and Madeira via Liverpool.

PRIVATE SHIP-LETTERS.—The *Albert, Edith, Swift* or *Leona*, from Hull for Rotterdam.

The Brighton Railway Company announce that on and from Monday, 19th March next, their day special express service to and from the Paris terminus near the Madeleine, leaving London for Paris 9 A.M. every week day and Sunday, will be accelerated to arrive in Paris 6.30 P.M., and the similar day special express service leaving Paris for London 9 A.M. every week day and Sunday morning will leave at 9.30 A.M. and be accelerated to arrive in London the same time as at present, 7 P.M.

Pall Mall Gazette Office,
18, CHARING CROSS ROAD, W.C.

The Prince of Wales called at the Elysée yesterday afternoon, and had a long and friendly chat with President Carnot. The President called later at the Hôtel Bristol, and signed his name in the visitors' book. The Prince will leave Paris for Marseilles to-morrow.

The Levée announced to be held by the Duke of York, on her Majesty's behalf, on Monday, the 12th inst., has, in consequence of the meeting of Parliament on that day, been postponed to Tuesday, the 13th inst.

The Duke of York, accompanied by Prince Francis of Teck and suite, witnessed the performance of "Don Juan" at the Gaiety Theatre last evening.

The Duke and Duchess of Teck, who are residing at the White Lodge, Richmond Park, will come to town on Tuesday for the purpose of attending the Drawing Room.

The Crown Prince and Princess of Greece will probably spend the whole of the month of June in England, as guests of her Majesty the Queen, at Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace.

Although at the age of forty-six Lord Rosebery will be quite a juvenile Prime Minister as times go, the late Lord Granville was two years younger when asked, in the summer of 1859, to undertake the formation of a Ministry. Of living statesmen, Mr. Gladstone entered on his first Premiership and his sixtieth year in the same month, December, 1868; Lord Salisbury was fifty-five years and four months when he formed his first Cabinet; and the Duke of Devonshire was forty-seven when, in 1880, he was summoned to Windsor as the titular head of the triumphant Liberals of that day.

There is no special significance in the exchange of telegraphic courtesies which has just taken place between the Emperor of Austria and the President of the French Republic, as such a custom is *de rigueur* when any Sovereign enters or approaches the territory of another. If the German Emperor, for example, were to go to Königsberg or Memel, he would be similarly greeted by the Tsar, and sometimes even the salutation is conveyed by an aide-de-camp instead of by a wire. The French President even has repeatedly done the same thing when the Kaiser has been in Alsace-Lorraine; while the Belgians and the Dutch are equally punctilious in the payment of these personal civilities to neighbouring heads of States.

The Emperor of Austria is a far less familiar personage to English people than his still beautiful consort, who has so often been seen riding to hounds in Ireland and in Cheshire, and whose love of the sea has brought her into contact with many of our compatriots in the Mediterranean and elsewhere. His Majesty, now in his sixty-fourth year, has a tall, soldier-like figure, owing his slim proportions and erect bearing to the immense amount of active exercise which he has taken throughout his life. On his well-marked and handsome features there is now stamped an impress of melancholy, which does not, however, obliterate the kindly expression, especially noticeable in his eyes and mouth. He wears whiskers and a full moustache trimmed after the Austrian fashion, but his chin is close shaven, and his well-shaped forehead is bare.

Simple and laborious in his habits, the Emperor rises every morning at five, and devotes the earlier hours to the affairs of State, entering into the minutest details. He is not a brilliant man, but fair abilities and long experience enable him to deal effectively with the problems of government. He daily drives out in a plain open carriage with an aide-de-camp and one chasseur in uniform, but without escort, outrider, or police. Art is his hobby. No mean draughtsman himself, he delights in visiting studios, and he personally superintends all the plans for building or repairing the Imperial palaces. He is a devout Catholic, and most strict in all religious observances.

The Empress Eugénie, who has been passing the winter at the Cap Martin Hotel, near Mentone, is not expected to return to Farnborough until the middle of April. The Empress will not go to her seat in Switzerland this spring.

The Hon. Mrs. Edward Stanhope, who has been staying during the last fortnight at Costebelle, near Hyères, will proceed shortly to Genoa, and thence to Florence, where she intends to remain for several weeks. Mrs. Stanhope will return to England to spend the summer at Revesby Abbey, Lincolnshire.

The late Lord Hampton's pictures, engravings, china, and old furniture will be sold at Worcester next Tuesday and two following days, and on Friday the valuable library of about 2,500 volumes is to be dispersed.

The Rev. W. H. Hitchcock, who has been appointed by Mr. Alderson, Lady Salisbury's brother, to succeed the late Rev. F. J. Ponsonby at St. Mary Magdalene's, Munster-square, is a *persona grata* at Sandringham, where he preached a few Sundays ago. The Princess of Wales made his acquaintance when staying with the late Duchess of Sutherland at Torquay, where he was vicar of St. John's. Mr. Hitchcock is a man of good private means and above the average as a preacher.

Touching Prince Bismarck and Amory Coffin, his American student-chum at Goettingen, a correspondent writes:—The "correction" on this subject, supplied by the daughter of this deceased gentleman, is anything but correct. For if the lady in question will take the trouble to turn up Dr. Busch's table-talk of the ex-Chancellor ("Bismarck during the Franco-German War"), she will find that, when referring once to his student days at Goettingen, the Prince said that he wagered five and twenty bottles of champagne with an American—the winner to stand and the loser to cross the sea for it—that Germany would be united in twenty years. That was in 1832. "In 1853," continued the Prince, "I thought of the bet, and meant to cross the sea for it; but, upon inquiry, I found that my man was dead. He had just the sort of name that promised no length of life—Coffin."

That is what Bismarck himself indisputably said in 1870, though subsequent to that year he may certainly have discovered his mistake, and continued to correspond with Dr. Coffin, who, as his daughter says, only died in 1884. There would thus appear to have been very little "effort of ingenious imagination" on the part of your substantially accurate paragraphist, and no destruction of "another Bismarck legend" at the hands of Dr. Amory Coffin's daughter.

Prince Bismarck's castle at Friedrichsruh has been recently lighted with electric light, the power being derived from some saw-mills which belong to the Prince, situated within a short distance of the castle. The Elektrizitäts-Gesellschaft, of Hamburg, formerly known as Schuckert and Co., have carried out all the work in connection with this installation.

Friedrich Spielhagen, the German novelist, celebrates his sixty-fifth birthday on the same day as Count Caprivi reaches his sixty-third. But the author of the "Russo-German Treaty of Commerce" is a very much better-preserved man than the author of "Problematische Naturen." Spielhagen has written some good things in his day, but he is now pretty much played out, and some of his latest stories show a woeful falling off. Physically, too, he has overstrained himself, and become peevish and irritable. His mind is too critical to excel at creating, and he has never yet achieved the darling object of his ambition—to write a successful play. "Consider my case, gentlemen," he once was heard to say in a social circle; "here am I, one of the foremost *littérateurs* of Germany, and I have never yet been bidden to Court!" He knows English literature *au fond*, and used to write occasional letters to the *Athenæum*.

The Dowager Lady Dallas has passed away in her eighty-second year. Lady Dallas was the daughter of the first Baron Ellenborough, Lord Chief Justice of England, and sister of the Earl of Ellenborough, who was Governor-General of India from 1841 to 1844.

The "Prince's Lancers," by Mr. James M. Glover, which attained a great success at the last Covent Garden ball, are about to be published by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter.

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QUORN AND PYTCHLEY.

THE HUNTS' POINT-TO-POINT AND THE MILITARY RACES.

Within the north-eastern confines of the Quorn country, at Hickling, the military races and the Pytchley and Quorn Hunt match were decided yesterday under conditions that will make the meeting a notable event in the Leicestershire records.

There were three items on the programme—namely, light-weight and welter army races, open to officers of any British regiment, and a challenge match between six picked riders of the Quorn and Pytchley. The four-mile course was a stiff country on a line from between Hickling and Long Clawson to Little Belvoir. The weather was superb, the attendance of spectators magnificent, and the combatants evoked the very keenest rivalry.

Lord Lonsdale had admirably managed last season's steeplechase for the Guards' Challenge Cup at Barleythorpe, but the present venture, which was entirely under his directions, surpassed in general points any meeting of the sort held recently. Among those present with the master were the Duke of Marlborough, the Duchess of Sutherland, the Duchess of Hamilton, Lord and Lady Londonderry, Lady Curzon, Sir Bache Cunard, Lord Southampton, Lord Henry Vane-Tempest, Lord W. Cavendish-Bentinck, Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, Lord Manners, Lord Edward Manners, Lord Cecil Manners, Lord Robert Manners, Lord Lovat, Sir Robert and Lady Affleck, Sir Savile and Lady Crossley, Count Zboronski, Lady Wilton and Mr. Pryor, Sir Francis and Lady Winnington, General Lord Roberts, Major-General Sir Francis Grenfell, Major-General Sir Baker Russell, Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Fraser, Major-General Williams, Colonels Doyne, Pole-Carew, Gough, Dunmore, Brabazon, and Brocklehurst, Captains Boyce, Leigh, Little, Warner, Ashton, Reuton, and Burns, Lord Marcus Beresford, Baron M. de Tuyll, Messrs. Foxhall Keene, Lemaitre, De Winton, R. B. Barclay, Brocklehurst, R. L. Fenwick, Guy Fenwick, Gordon Cunard, Prince and Princess Henry of Pless, and a host of others.

Besides the numerous private guests, occupiers of the land over which the Quorn ride were invited and nearly three thousand joined Lord Lonsdale at a champagne luncheon.

The course throughout its entire length was in view of the spectators, and a more brilliant scene could not be witnessed than that at the finish of some of the contests. Special trains were run from London. As the twenty-eight competitors turned out for the Army Light-weight Race, it was admitted that the record was about to be beaten. The character of the country tried riders and horses severely—many tumbled into the well-known river Smite, but no injury of note was suffered by even the most unlucky. Details:—

THE MILITARY RACES.

ARMY LIGHT-WEIGHT RACE (12st).—Capt. Gordon's (12th Lancers) Mackrankie, 1; Major P. Clowes's (8th Hussars) Princess, 2; Captain R. Kincaid-Smith's (4th Hussars) Playaway, 3; Captain A. W. Cotton's (Grenadier Guards) Beam, 4; Sir Samuel Scott's (Royal Horse Guards) Luxury, 5; Mr. H. C. Noel's (17th Lancers) Bogman, 6.

The race was splendidly run. It was free from serious accident and aroused immense enthusiasm, the light being so bright that with the aid of glasses the riders could be clearly distinguished all the way. Half a mile from home Mr. Gordon was out by himself by half a field, and, coming along, he won in good style by lengths from Major Clowes, who beat Captain Smith by six lengths, Captain Cotton being beaten half a length after a fine race for third place. The others placed finished within a few lengths of each other.

ARMY WELTER POINT-TO-POINT RACE.—Catch weights, 13 st 7 lb.:—Captain Reginald Hoare (4th Hussars) Sir Gay King, 1; Lord Shaftesbury's (8th Hussars) Toast, 2; Lord Lovat's (1st Life Guards) Halma, 3, Mr. E. Rose's (R. H. Guards) Sambo Sutton, 4; Mr. H. Heywood Lonsdale's (Grenadier Guards) Bective, 5; Captain R. Kincaid-Smith's (4th Hussars) Castlerea II., 6.

The field of seventeen riders kept remarkably close company for two miles. When fairly in the line for home Captain Hoare, Lord Shaftesbury, and Lord Lovat held the foremost places, and a grand race home was witnessed, Captain Hoare eventually winning very cleverly by a length, while half a length only separated second and third, with the others close up.

QUORN *v.* PYTCHLEY HUNTS' MATCH.

Mr. H. T. Barclay (Quorn), 1; Captain De Winton (Quorn), 2; Mr. R. B. Muir (Quorn), 3; Mr. H. C. Bentley (Pytchley), 4; Lord Shaftesbury (Pytchley), 5; Mr. Foxhall Keene (Quorn), 6; Mr. C. Adamthwaite (Pytchley), 7; Mr. C. Beatty (Pytchley), 8; Count Zboronski (Quorn), 9; Captain Reuton (Pytchley), 10; Mr. Jameson (Pytchley), 11; Mr. Hugh Owen (Quorn), 12.

The Quorn, who had the first three home, won easily amidst great enthusiasm, Mr. Barclay scoring cleverly by a length, on his well-known horse Lord Arthur. The first six finished remarkably close together. In totalling up the points the Quorn won by 45 to 21.

NOTES FROM CLUB AND COURSE.

If a quorum of the National Hunt stewards happen to be present at Sandown Park to-day the question which has arisen concerning Cloister's Grand National entry will be investigated and promptly settled.

Meantime supporters of that horse for the great Liverpool race do not waver in their belief that all is perfectly right. How firm the general conviction stands may be seen in the betting. It is practically unaffected by the hubbub of this mare's nest.

Ardcarn continues a subject of much gossip. Mr. Linde should, of course, know more than any other man of the horse's merits. He regards Clofster as invincible, and will therefore gaily run Ardcarn with the hope of incurring a penalty and winning the Open Steeplechase. But Ardcarn is also certain to run at Liverpool, whatever his earlier fortune. And no doubt need be felt that even with a penalty Ardcarn will prove a doughty antagonist to the best opponent.

Brilliant weather and a very attractive show in the members and general enclosures made pleasant the opening of the Sandown meeting despite the fact that the racing was of a very moderate character. One item relieved the general dullness of the programme. The Liverpool Trial Steeplechase resulted in a very exciting struggle—a finish very rare if ever seen in a chase over three and a half miles of country.

There were only five competitors, and of these Correze might as well have stopped in the stable, so moderate was his form, so hopeless the chance; and Tor Cross broke a blood vessel early in the hunt. But Brunswick and St. Anthony engaged in a most resolute encounter. The latter jumped much less expertly than his opponent. Still, the older horse was overhauled between the jumps, and although he cleared the last obstacle half a length ahead of his adversary, St. Anthony managed, after a desperate but finished bit of riding by Escott, to wrest the victory by a neck.

The difficulty of placing any reliance on the form shown in hunters' flat races was again exemplified in the meeting of Appenzell, Athlumney, and Lara. The first named had beaten the second "in a canter" two weeks ago. but now it was the other way about. The humour of the situation was felt by the speculator, who threw it into this absurd expression before the race: "Appenzell easily defeated Athlumney, Athlumney repeatedly beat Lara; therefore my money must go on Lara." As a matter of fact, Lara was supported for most money. The sequel was that Athlumney easily secured the verdict from Appenzell—a result that should be taken good note of by all concerned in National Hunt flat racing.

A correspondent writes:—I have occasionally weighed some foxes this season, and give you some results in pounds—Cubs: 13½, 14½, 13, 12. Old foxes: 16, 15, 17, 16, 16½, 16, 15½, 16. You may take it that cubs run about 13 lb., and old foxes about 16 lb., though I am convinced I have killed them in former years as heavy as 20 lb. I only occasionally weigh, sometimes forgetting, sometimes on account of foxes being too much torn, and sometimes when I do not wish to take a fox from hounds, if they are at all short of blood.

The Atherstone Hunt met at Bitteswell, and began unluckily, a fox found at Bitteswell being killed in cover. From Sharnford a pretty gallop was had of twenty minutes to ground. Three Pot Gorses and Draycott Bank, but a fox was at home in the adjoining spinney. He was quickly away, and hounds ran very fast to Sharnford Gorse over a good line. Not dwelling a moment in covert, they ran on to Claybrook. Here a long check occurred, and thence the pace was slow to Twelve Acres, where reynard was given up.

The Meath Hounds afforded a very large field the most liberal opportunities of galloping galore and jumping yesterday, when they met at Kilmore cross-roads—a place which is much associated with recollections of the Empress of Austria. The first fox was found in Garradice Gorse, near Summerhill, Lord Langford's seat. Reynard ran the hounds out of scent in about a mile, but was foolish enough to lie down, and was very soon picked up again. They hunted him very fast till end in a burrow. In this very good gallop a hunter belonging to an officer of "the Royals" was killed. From Colistown Gorse they only got on a stale line, the fox having left the gorse betimes; but from Baltrasna Gorse they had first an extremely fast ring, and then a good gallop by the Mullagh and Jenkinstown to Larch Hill. In this run Captain the Hon. C. Sclater-Booth's hunter was killed. His Excellency Lord Houghton got a nasty fall, and broke a finger.

On Saturday next, March 10, the well-known cyclist, Mr. R. L. Jefferson, will leave, as already announced, on his long trip to Constantinople. He intends to start about two o'clock from the doors of "Constantinople" at Olympia. The journey will occupy about three months, through France, Switzerland, Italy, Hungary, Servia, Bulgaria, and Roumelia. Mr. Jefferson will be accompanied as far as Newhaven by several well-known cyclists.

A bill of a drastic character has been brought into the American State Legislature, which its introducers wish to be in force in Boston and within a thirty miles radius, for the protection of property and the inhabitants against dogs. The principal provisions are as follows: "The licence for each male dog to be 10 dols., and 20 dols. for females; all damages done by dogs to be paid from the dog tax; licences to be refused or annulled for all dogs that bark or disturb their neighbourhood; severe fines with loss of licence to be imposed on all female dogs found at large when in fever; and the police are required to capture such dogs at such time, for which they shall be paid 5 dols. for extra hazardous work; the police to be required to capture all dogs at large without a collar, suitably inscribed, and for which they shall receive 2 dols. for extra services."

A considerable amount of enthusiasm is being thrown into the scheme to send a South African cricket team to England. Johannesburg, according to latest advices, is going to do its utmost and £900 of the Transvaal's £1,000 is already guaranteed. The cricketers from the Western Province to be submitted to the South African Cricket Association for selection are as follows:—Messrs. A. W. Seccull, H. H. Castens, G. Cripps, V. Vander Byl, G. Rowe, and E. Allen, and Hearne, Mills, and Middleton. The three last-named, as will be readily inferred, are professionals, and at a meeting of the Western Province Cricket Union the question was raised whether it was competent to include them in the team. Then there is a further question, whether the professionals would be willing to take the trip without adequate remuneration. These questions are to be settled by the Cricket Association.

Another Cape sporting project is not likely to reach fruition just yet. It is the proposal by the Transvaal Football Association to send a football team to England. The Pietermaritzburgh people refuse to support it.

At Birmingham, yesterday, Mr. Cail, president of the Rugby Football Union, presided over a meeting of the sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Rowland Hill, Miles, Whalley, and Crane, appointed to inquire into the charge of professionalism preferred by the Stroud Football Club against the Gloucester Football Club. The particulars of the charge were in relation to the Gloucester captain, Hanman, inducing a player named Shewell to leave his club, Hanman, F.C., and play with Gloucester, in consideration of work being found him. Gloucester's contention was that no promise had ever been made to Shewell to have work found for him, but after hearing evidence at great length the sub-committee came to the following decision:—That the Gloucester Football Club should be suspended from the 5th to the 24th of March inclusive; that Hanman be suspended from playing football for the remainder of the season, and that all the expenses of that inquiry be paid by the Gloucester F.C." The matter had previously been before the Gloucester County Union, and the club were fined the sum of £10 but the sub-committee now dealt with the matter, as it was considered to be under the professional laws and not under the transfer laws, the sub-committee recommends the Gloucester County Union to return the £10, provided the money has not been already handed to a charity."

The Alresford-trained Drumlina has incurred a 7lb penalty for the Open Handicap Steeplechase at the Grand Military Meeting at Sandown Park on Friday next, through her win in the Ewell Handicap Steeplechase, her weight now being 11 st 6 lb.

A full week's racing commences at Warwick on Monday, when a two-days' meeting will be held. Gatwick and Lichfield meetings will occupy Wednesday and Thursday, and the Grand Military Meeting at Sandown Park Friday and Saturday.

NATIONAL AMATEUR ROWING ASSOCIATION.

The third annual report of the National Amateur Rowing Association which is to be presented to the annual general meeting to be held at Wood's Hotel, Furnival's Inn, Holborn, on Saturday, the 17th inst., is interesting as an exposition of the views of the executive committee on the amateur question in rowing. The committee feel there is great cause for congratulating the Association on the progress that has been made during the past year in regard to public opinion upon the amateur definition. Though they are unable to report that a solution of the serious difficulty has yet been found, the events of the season have shown that there is a growing tendency towards the views held by the association; and the committee have reason to hope that more important results are likely to take place in the immediate future.

Considerable comment has found its way into public print regarding the amateur question; and although many who have advocated the principle laid down in the association's definition have expressed themselves as satisfied with the National A.R.A., its foundation, and its method of procedure, the executive believe this to be due rather to misunderstanding than to any real difference of opinion. The fact that the cardinal feature of the association—namely, the broadening of the amateur definition—has been discussed in general as well as in rowing circles is regarded by the committee as eminently satisfactory, and as clearly indicating that the clause they have in hand is, at least, worthy of thorough examination. The committee are persuaded that when the whole matter has been thoroughly sifted some *modus vivendi* will be agreed upon, which will clear away the anomalies existing under the present definition of the A.R.A.

The committee feel that they have expressed the sense of the association in proclaiming as unsatisfactory a code of laws by which an oarsman may be deprived of amateur status, when his only offence is that he has rowed with or against another who, at some time, has worked for a wage as "a mechanic, artisan, or labourer." And it is still more unsatisfactory that the laws governing one of the great sports of the country should be so framed that very many who row under them are *ipso facto* debarred from rowing as amateurs by the very laws under which they row. It is from this position that the committee have endeavoured to release the present code of laws, and they feel that no solution of the question will be satisfactory until the whole of the rowing community is brought under one general and comprehensive definition.

In contradiction of the statements that have from time to time been made, the executive are anxious to disclaim any intention of claiming, on behalf of the association, high-sounding titles to which they have no right. The committee, however, while believing that some international arrangement should be made, feel that they cannot at present recommend the association to entertain the suggestion of the federation, which allows the taking of money prizes. During last season the Brighton Excelsior R.C. competed in Paris at a regatta, under the laws of the F.S.N.P. After full consideration, the club was suspended by the general committee pending the decision of the general meeting. The club has, however, in the interim withdrawn from the association.

INTERNATIONAL YACHTING.

A representative of Reuter's agency interviewed Mr. E. O. Islin, the owner of the American yacht *Vigilant*, yesterday, on that gentleman's return from France. Mr. Islin says that no challenge having been sent in there will not be a race this year, and expressed surprise at the suggestions made that Lord Dunraven intended bringing *Valkyrie* home this spring because of the Americans refusing to race. On the contrary, the owner of *Vigilant* states that either the latter boat or *Colonna* are ready to meet Lord Dunraven's yacht.

SALMON RIVERS IN WINTER.

INFLUENCE OF ICE-DRIFTS AND LOW TEMPERATURE IN NORWEGIAN WATERS.

To those Norway-going anglers who take more than a merely superficial pleasure in their favourite amusement, it may be interesting to note some of the conditions that apply during the autumn and winter months to these northern rivers, and the extraordinary fecundity that the salmon which ascend them display in spite of the many circumstances of climate adverse to the reproduction of their race.

In consequence of the close proximity to the west coast of the mountain ranges from which they flow, the Norwegian rivers are, with but few exceptions, short and very rapid in their course; their drainage areas, owing to the high level at which they stand, are frost-bound for many months of the year, and the fall which takes place upon them during the same period remains, and until the advent of spring is not discharged through the water systems into the sea. The result is that where with the rise in temperature the vast masses of ice and snow that have accumulated during the previous winter begin to melt, the channels are filled to overflowing, and an immense volume of water descends which in many cases is apparent to the eye for miles out from the river's mouths, and which is in strange contrast to the state of matters seen a couple of months earlier.

The shrinkage which takes place on these Norwegian streams in winter must be seen to be believed. It is at its height, or rather its lowest level during February and early March. For months previously far the greater portion of their basins have been ice-bound, and whatever fall has taken place has been in the form of snow; moreover, the fall during the first three months of the year of any kind is very small as a rule. Even in the case of large and important rivers the volume of partially-frozen water is frequently reduced to a mere thread, making it difficult to realize that in so short a space of time it will be replaced with a series of whirling rapids and deep pools teeming with salmon fresh from the sea. More especially, of course, does this apply to the more northern rivers, where the difference between the maximum summer and the minimum winter levels of the water is astonishing.

THE INFLUENCE OF ISGANG.

But these climatic conditions are extremely adverse to the successful carrying out by the fish of their domestic duties. Long before the great shrinkage aforesaid takes place the salmon are on the spawning beds, even then covered by shallow water only, the consequence being that in winter many beds become absolutely dry, and the roe is exposed to the full effects of severe frost as well as drought. When such exposure is not of long duration and is quickly followed by a thaw, the effects are not necessarily destructive, but a long frost under such circumstances is always fatal to the embryo fish, which are submitted also to the grinding action of gravel and stones under the influence of frost and the ultimately succeeding flood.

Another fertile source of destruction of salmon spawn on a number of northern rivers is the drift ice ("isgang"), which does an infinity of mischief. In certain streams such an occurrence does not take place more than once a year, in midwinter or early spring; in others again it occurs as often as six or eight times in the twelve months. This, of course, applies more especially to the districts in the vicinity of the coast, where the greater changeableness of the climate frequently brings about severe and rapid thaws. Sometimes the dislodged drift ice is carried off without getting collected together and jammed; but at others its action is extremely violent and injurious.

Ice mounds of great height are formed, huge blocks of ice are thrown far up on the banks, and rocks, stones, and gravel are disrupted and carried off. Bridges, too, are not infrequently destroyed, and the whole river bed is completely altered, deep pools often taking the place of gravelly streams, and *vice versâ*. There are instances of ice mounds five metres in height being thrown up, while elsewhere, such huge masses of ice have been cast over the roads that numbers of men have had to be collected in order to clear them.

"The 'Isgang,'" says Herr Landmark, the Norwegian Inspector of Fisheries, "goes on either at the time when the salmon roe is not hatched out, or immediately after that has taken place, in the latter case, therefore, when the young salmon still carry their large vesicles, at which stage of existence they are particularly sensitive to external pressure, and are altogether extremely helpless. Now as the masses of ice during the continuation of the Isgang frequently scrape the bottom with great violence for long distances, especially in shallow water—where the spawning beds are—it is evident that in those rivers where it occurs with frequency and violence (and these are, unfortunately, only too numerous), "it must destroy an immense quantity of the roe or delicate young, which have survived the other dangers of the winter, and that the said phenomenon must altogether be extremely injurious to the salmon's reproduction." It frequently happens also that full-grown salmon which have elected to remain in the river during the winter are found crushed and mangled during the "Isgang," and doubtless many kelts thus fatally injured are washed out to sea.

GROUND ICE AND LOW TEMPERATURE.

"To the two ruinous conditions here described which our winter climate brings about," continues the inspector, "there occurs in many places yet a third, which can hardly be described as of such importance as the above, but which also undoubtedly does much harm to the deposited roe. I refer to the formation of ground ice, which in many situations especially in rapids, and in the parts below falls, occurs during continuous cold, and by which the bottom of the river becomes covered with masses of ice of considerable thickness. When a thaw occurs these sheets of ice become detached from the bottom and rise up, carrying with them portions of the gravel or stones on which they rested. Where such ice formations occur on the spawning beds themselves, which is often the case, there can be no doubt that a great deal of the roe there deposited is ruined, although this evil is of far less serious importance than that produced by the "Isgang."

At a later period of the existence of the young fish, and when they have become capable of eating, the low temperature of the water is indirectly prejudicial to their growth, inasmuch as it does not sufficiently promote the development of the minute organisms on which they are dependent for food.

This fact is a somewhat important consideration, as it is in the roe and fry stage that salmon are exposed to the greatest natural dangers, and the more quickly they can pass through these the smaller must be the proportion lost or destroyed.

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